

IRAQI DESTINY



Volume 1, Issue 38

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**Orphans paint
smiles on
soldier's faces**

see page 3



Pepsi generation?

This little girl sits in the doorway of a repaired school in Mosul, Iraq. According to the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, repairs to the schools are a top priority to help the future generations get a head start in Iraq. Local contractors were hired to make the repairs, which helps put money back into the community. All the windows in the facilities were replaced, and the walls were given a fresh coat of paint, including murals around the building and playgrounds. The facilities will also be getting new chalkboards and recreational areas. (See Page 9 for full story.)

Letter to the Editor

Sense of history vs. rendezvous with destiny

Maj. Gen. William C. Lee, the first commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division once said of the division that “we have no history, but we have a rendezvous with destiny.”

This is what the general said about his division, but I have nothing to do with it. The thing that has attracted my attention and reminded me of an incident was the word “history.”

I well remember the incident of the early years of 1980 when I entered the class of sixth year scientific section to notice many charts stuck on the walls above the blackboard. One of them clearly said “a nation who has no history can not motivate his people of bright future.” - Saddam Hussein. I drew my students’ attention to it asking them to read it carefully and listen to my words without any comment. “Our history is more than six thousand years of age but the history of America is not more than three hundred years. Look

at our present and see theirs and that’s all.”

From the time we were at primary school, we were taught about our bright history and civilization. Our minds were stuffed with such matters. It seemed to us at that time, we were superior to any nation in the world. Unfortunately, this feeling deteriorated gradually when we examined our past, comparing it with our present. Now let’s have the subject from another point. Return to the states – it is very obvious that the age of the United States is not more than three hundred years. It means this is the history of the states, not thousands of years. See the progress in countless fields of life. Every citizen is a nation who has an errand to carry out and spread all over the world, especially to those which are called developed countries. Anyhow, I haven’t heard one talking about history or even about his future. From them in common I have the feeling of talking about what they are going to

give for the future.

In this case, I remember an incident which took place before the second Gulf War. It was the meeting between James Baker, the secretary of state at the time and Tariq Aziz, the foreign minister in Saddam’s regime. There Tariq Aziz told Baker that the Iraqi people were going to fight the Americans with the history of six thousand years. When Mr. Baker was reminded by the journalists of this saying, Baker replied that Mr. Aziz had stated his case thoroughly but “he is wrong.” Indeed, he was wrong for the Iraqi army was driven out of Kuwait in a unique way. In spite of all what had happened, Saddam considered it a triumph.

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Soldiers, Iraqi orphans enjoy fun in the sun at CMOC

by Spc. Joshua M. Risner
40th PAD

Soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion gave a group of Iraqi orphans a day filled with fun and games at the Civil Military Operations Center, September 1.

The event took ten days to put together according to Capt. Terri Robbins of Granite City, Ill., 501st Signal Bn. "The purpose was simply for the kids to be able to have fun in a safe environment and spend quality time with the soldiers," she said.

Soldiers volunteered their time and services to help with the set-up and run different events of the day. Some soldiers also acted as lifeguards at the pool.

"I want to thank all the soldiers who pitched in with decorating and offered their services today," said Sgt. Nikki Wade, 431st CA Bn. She added that assistant division commander, operations, Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick came up with the idea for the day at the pool, but was unable to attend due to an obligation elsewhere.

Children from three separate orphanages arrived to participate in the events of the day.

Each group was greeted when they arrived and given a towel with the Screaming Eagle insignia on it as a gift. The children then went on to swim in the pool, participate in relay races and play games such as pin the tail on the donkey, also for prizes.

Winners of the games got candy and snacks.

Each child was also given a lunch



An Iraqi child jumps in the pool at the Civil Military Operations Center. The CMOC hosted a day of fun and games for children from three local orphanages.

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Spc. Joshua M. Risner

Iraqi orphans swim in the pool while Spc. Veronica Barella, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion, volunteers her time to act as a lifeguard.

Artillerymen, Iraqis spin wrenches, keep U.S. rolling

by Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, and local Iraqis are working together, making lighter work with many hands.

According to Staff Sgt. James Justice of Greenup, Ky., 1-377th, with the workload that was piling up on the 377th, including tasks like changing engines and changing out hundreds of tires, something had to be done to lighten the load.

"Since we've been here, we've put in 12 engines," Justice said, adding that the task usually falls on a different maintenance shop.

The soldiers were also tasked to prepare spare tires for all the vehicles they maintain.

To help the soldiers, who were spread thin over their many missions, local Iraqis that had been working with the unit to do repair jobs around their area were brought in to work in the motor-pool as well.

"Instead of me getting behind with all of our missions, we have these guys helping us out; helping us stay afloat really," Justice said.

"This is really their third week working at the motor-pool, they started with building a bunker and a sandbag wall," said Spc. William Fox of Lapalma, Cal., 1-377th, who works with the men. "About a week and a half ago we brought them over to the tire shop."

The men were given a class on how to build the spare tires, and then went to work.

"The first two tires they did were wrong, but the next day they did 19," Justice said.

"They do such a good job that we are working on finding them more things to do."

According to Yassir Khalel, one of the Iraqi workers, none of them had ever rebuilt tires before, so the work is also teaching them new skills.

"In one day we break down about 22 tires," said Ahmed Fawzy, one of the Iraqi workers who said he normally works as a painter.

"Right now there isn't a lot of work in Mosul, so they really like this," Fox said. "We have so much going on right now, they should be working here for quite a while longer. They've built so many tires now, I've lost count."

The men were hired from the local unemployment office on a weekly basis. They are paid \$4 a day, plus an extra dollar for being able to come to the motor-pool every morning for work instead of being picked up.

According to Fox the language barrier hasn't been a problem.

"It's funny; the language barrier really isn't a barrier for us," Fox said. "We have an Arabic/English translation book that we hardly ever use, except for exact instructions."

According to Fox, he has become good friends with the men.

"I have lunch with them all the time," Fox said. "They will bring their lunches and share it with me. Yesterday, I found out I had eaten some goat lung. Every so often we get in a conversation about Saddam. They are so happy that guy is gone. They were laughing so hard when we showed them the South Park episode with him in it."

The men are all from the same village near Mosul.

"They tell me I'm a friend



Spc. Blake Kent

With no prior experience, these men can break down and put together 22 tires in a day. The men are working with the 1-377th motor pool in Mosul, Iraq.

of their village, and they don't call me Spc. Fox or by my name," Fox said. "They call me 'Abu Sarah,' which is, 'father of Sarah,' because my daughter's name is Sarah. It's their way of showing respect for someone, and that is all they know me as, 'Abu Sarah.'"

Khalel and Fawzy both say they like the work and knowing that they are able to help out the soldiers.

"We are happy we are here," Fawzy said. "The job is easy and we are working with good people."

According to Justice, having the men help with the motor-

pool work has also allowed the soldiers to get more time for their own job training.

"These soldiers have been learning in three months what it took a lot of us older guys years to learn," Justice said.

The men hope to be able to work with the motor-pool for at least another month or so, till work becomes more available in the Mosul area.

The motor-pool is working to keep the men employed for as long as possible. Next, they will be painting the motor-pool facilities.

"They will do just as much as you will let them do," Justice said. "They are eager to work."

Soldiers on patrol constantly reminded of danger

by Pfc. Chris Jones
40th PAD

"Hell yeah I get scared," said Pfc. Jaorge Cabrera, mortar man, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, on the way out to an evening patrol. "Every night when we go out there in the open I think, 'Wow, this is real'."

Cabrera, a tall, brawny Florida native, spent his Labor Day weekend manning a 50-caliber machine gun attached to a Humvee as his squad patrolled the streets of Mosul. Soldiers on patrol know they face the danger of rocket-propelled grenades, improvised explosive devices, car bombs and anything else former regime loyalists and anti-Americans can conjure up. They act as policemen, enforcing laws and ensuring peace.

All infantry units in the city have teams that patrol the streets. Cabrera and Pfc. Paul Wilken, a mortar man in Cabrera's squad, had a quiet patrol from 6-9 p.m. No illegal acts were spotted.

"It's pretty rare for it to go as good as it went," Wilken stated after the patrol.

A big concern among patrollers is black market propane.

"Selling propane on the black market is our big thing right now, they sell the propane for an outrageous price," Wilken said.



Pfc. Chris Jones

A soldier with 3rd Bn., 502nd Inf. Regt., stands behind a 50-caliber machine gun in a gun truck after his squad was startled by a nearby explosion.

"We confiscate the propane and give it away for free to someone who needs it."

Wilken said the patrols have also been less violent since the death of Uday and Qusay Hussein.

"After we took down Saddam's sons, no more than 10 minutes from here, there's been a major decrease in attacks," he said.

Wilken's squad was then relieved, and the 9 p.m. - 12 a.m. shift took off into the city. In this three-vehicle convoy, there was an Iraqi translator and two armed Iraqis hired

by the battalion along to assist the soldiers. This shift has the most "action," according to soldiers from both patrols.

True to form, at about 10 p.m., after the convoy had pulled to the side of the road at a regular stop, a large explosion illuminated a nearby field. Three Iraqis in white robes took off running, and a group of soldiers pursued them. The interpreter spoke to them and they were identified as sheep-herders.

Twenty minutes went by as half the soldiers searched the field while the other half stood guard. Nothing was found. The explosion was identified as an improvised explosive device, considered too large in size to have been an RPG.

Another explosion, much quieter, was heard shortly after, followed by distant gunfire. Midnight rolled around and the squad was relieved.

From 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., a team of scouts assumed patrol duty. Each shift is designated a different area of the city, through each must look for the same illegal acts. The morning and afternoon shifts are generally much calmer, said Sgt. Jason Turcotte, scout, HHC, 3rd Bn., 502nd Inf. Regt.

"I'm paranoid every time I leave the gates, grinding my teeth," Turcotte said while riding through a residential district of Mosul, ensued by a throng of waving children. "But nothing really happens on this shift except all these kids chasing you."



Sgt. Jason Turcotte, scout, HHC, 3rd Bn., 502nd Inf. Regt., gives a thumbs up to a throng of Iraqi kids chasing a military truck carrying soldiers on patrol through the city streets.

Qayarrah elections hosted by 1st Bde.

by Spc. Joshua M. Risner
40th PAD

City council members and muktars from surrounding communities gathered at a school in Qayarrah to elect an interim mayor, Aug. 26.

The ballots, representing 13 candidates for the office, were printed in English as well as Arabic. To further eliminate any confusion, a picture also accompanied each candidate's name.

Soldiers of 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), were on hand to keep order and to oversee the election, according to Lt. Col. Marcus DeOliveira, com-

mander, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment.

Soldiers explained the voting process with the help of interpreters to make sure they understood the instructions.

Before casting his ballot, each voter had to be registered at the site. The process was a slow one, taking up half the day before the final ballot was cast.

Soldiers, accompanied by interpreters, counted out the votes one by one.

Out of 13 candidates, there was a tie between two of them. A run-off election between the two remaining hopefuls took place Aug. 30.

Saleh Hassan Ali came out on top at the run-off and took the title of mayor for the town of Qayarrah.



Spc. Joshua M. Risner

A Muktar casts his ballot for the election of an interim mayor in Qayarrah. There were 13 candidates in the running, community leaders from outlying villages and the city council participated in the voting process.



An Iraqi child is dressed in a Peshmerga uniform at the 57th anniversary of the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

Kurdistan Democratic Party celebrates 57th anniversary in Mahmur

by Spc. Joshua M. Risner
40th PAD

Hundreds of locals gathered for a massive celebration at the grain silos here Aug. 23 marking the 57th anniversary of the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

The KDP is the dominant political party in Kurdistan, said Col. Ben Hodges, 1st Brigade commander, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Participants waved yellow banners signifying the color of the Kurdistan flag, but also flew the flags of Iraq, the U.S. and Great Britain during the celebration.

Massud Barzani, president of the KDP, was also on hand for the event. "He is referred to as the 'unofficial' president of Kurdistan," Hodges said.

Representatives for the coalition forces in Iraq also spoke to the masses, proclaiming the progress that they have made in Northern Iraq and that the region has been much friendlier than the rest of the country. "We're proud of the success we're having in Iraq," Hodges said.

The event featured several speakers as well as a live band, which performed patriotic tunes. Several people gathered in front of the makeshift stage and performed traditional dances.

Damaged oil refinery spouts new life

by Pfc. Chris Jones
40th PAD

A major oil refinery in Northern Iraq, looted and stripped after the war, is scheduled to resume operations and produce 200,000 liters of diesel fuel daily by Sept. 1.

In the first week of August, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery teamed with 1st Bn., 187th Infantry Regiment to supervise reconstruction efforts of the Kisik Oil Refinery. Seventy locals were hired to begin cleaning the facility while employees of Bayji Oil Company began fixing the refinery's equipment.

A daily rate of 200,000 liters is 10 percent of the refinery's absolute capacity, said project manager Sarhan Abbas through an interpreter. It produced at about 70 percent before the war, Abbas said.

"We will gradually produce more fuel as resources increase, we will eventually try to make 80 percent, but 100 percent is very



Pfc. Chris Jones

An Iraqi man leverages a pump into place at the Kisik Oil Refinery, looted and stripped after the former regime collapsed. Under the supervision of 3-320th Field Artillery and 1-187 Inf. Rgt., the facility has been restored by hired Iraqi citizens and workers from the Bayji Oil Company.

high," Abbas said. "We cannot do that."

Abbas said he hopes to be producing at 70 percent on or around Oct. 1.

Currently, diesel fuel is the target product.

"Diesel is what's really a shortage in the country, so that's the main priority," said Maj. Tim Sullivan, 3rd Bde. field support officer. "Kerosene is used mainly in the winter, so it's not as important right now."

After refinement at Kisik, oil is sent to the city of Wallea for distribution.

BOC has paid for the cost of all work on the machinery, while coalition forces have

spent more than \$10,000 in repairing the administrative office, firehouse, storehouse and the fence line, along with the wages of the 70 hired citizens, according to a document released by 3rd Bde.

"This marks a major step towards alleviating the fuel shortages that the people of this region have endured," states the document. "Additionally, the repair of the refinery marks another step towards getting the country's infrastructure on its feet so that the Iraqi people can benefit from the nation's greatest natural resource."

Former Iraqi militants graduate border guard training

by Pfc. Chris Jones
40th PAD

Two hundred and eleven Iraqis will soon relieve soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment (Rakkasans) guarding the Syria/Iraq border after graduation from Initial Border Guard Training August 26.

IBGT is an eight-day course. It covers the basic skills needed to be a border guard, including patrolling, handling of detainees, physical fitness and basic

marksmanship, said Maj. Colinh Fortier, operations officer, 3rd Bn.

"The guards' job is to maintain the integrity of the border," Fortier said. "One of their main jobs is to check for smuggling of any kind."

This is the second IBGT class to graduate, the first finished Aug. 7. Both graduation ceremonies were held in the city of Rabiah, on the border.

Soldiers from B Co., 3rd Bn., led by 2nd Lt. Luke Servido and Sgt. 1st Class Johanings Mier, trained both courses. Ninety-one Iraqis graduated the first

class, which was held specifically for the border guard leaders, from platoon sergeant to battalion commander. One hundred and twenty graduated the second class, Fortier said.

Rakkasan soldiers will continue manning the border until Sept. 6, when the third class is to be completed, Fortier said.

"After this class, we'll be able to hand over duties to the Iraqis" he said.

Ten leaders from the first class will become instructors in future classes, Fortier said.

"Their goal is to be able to train themselves, to start a

strong foundation," he said.

Monthly pay for the guards ranges from \$150 to \$320, varied by rank. Division Jobs Program ensures their paycheck.

Shortly before the graduation ceremony Tuesday, graduates of the first class received their first check, bringing comfort to the already prided guards.

"Basically, this augments the coalition forces and gives these folks jobs, relieving our job in the area" said Capt. Patrick Costello, in charge of distribut-

101st, Mosul banks race to meet October 15 deadline

by Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

Several local construction companies have begun nearly one million dollars worth of renovations on 12 Mosul state-owned banks in a sprint to have them open before October 15.

The contracts were awarded this past week by soldiers in the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion and 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). The contractors now have six weeks to ready the Mosul banks for the coalition imposed turnover date, when the face of Saddam Hussein will be removed from every Iraqi currency.

Around \$90,000 of the money came from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) commanders' emergency relief program, which helped stand up the banks immediately after the division moved to Northern Iraq in April. The rest of the money comes from the Iraqi Ministry of Finance.

The Iraqi financial dependence on the project contrasts sharply with other 101st rebuilding efforts, where coalition funds have taken charge.

"We're trying to transition it over," said Sgt. Toby Tucker of Little Rock, Ark., 431st Civil Affairs Battalion. "It's all part

of giving the responsibility to the Iraqi ministry. If the (Coalition Provisional Authority) does everything, then things won't get back to normal."

The completion of the project should stabilize the local banks after several months of efforts by coalition authorities, the Iraqi Finance Ministry and the 101st Airborne Division.

"Initially where we took over we used CERP funds and money provided through the CPA to do repairs," said Maj. Greg Cordray of Texarkana, Tex., 431st Civil Affairs Battalion. Cordray's office works closely with the Coalition Provisional Authority on various rebuilding efforts in Northern Iraq and Mosul.

"Some of the banks aren't even functioning; the goal is to get them up and functioning."

'We're 0 for 5 today'

After four contracts were signed Saturday, soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division and the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion (Little Rock, Ark.) toured through the local banks that the construction companies had pledged to start work on Saturday.

Neither construction company had accomplished anything at any bank at the

time the soldiers inspected the areas. One dilapidated bank had even caught fire after workers had neglected to lock the doors before looters ransacked the bank.

Patience had run thin after the end of soldiers' visits.

"Where are all the contractors," asked 2nd Lt. Paul Kreger of Conneaut, Ohio, HHC 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, after he found not one construction worker at any bank. "We're 0 for five today, the deadline is tomorrow morning."

The workers were on time the next day. Nonetheless, with one bank nearly burned to the ground and others little more than empty cavities, the Coalition authorities and the 101st Airborne are sure to keep the heat on to make sure the banks are ready for the imposed deadline.

"I don't know if it was a communication problem, but I communicated very clearly when I talked to the contractors on Saturday," Tucker said. "Every contractor on Sunday had a minimum of ten people, some had more."

"We just had to give them the proper motivation."

The contracting company responsible for Mosul bank that caught fire early Saturday morning has taken full financial responsibility for the disaster, according to Tucker, and is still under the same deadline.

Highway 1 cleared of debris

by Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

On the west end of Mosul, along highway one, soldiers and local workers are clearing the sides of the road of rubble, that in the past weeks, militant forces have used to conceal improvised explosive devices.

"There was a lot of scrap metal right next to the road, along with old ammunition," said Sgt. Christopher Harvey, Battery A, 1-377th Field Artillery Regiment.

According to Harvey, IEDs were set up among the scrap metal and detonation wire was run to nearby buildings.

Three weeks ago, there was one soldier killed on the road from

an IED, said Staff Sgt. Edward Hurley, Bat. A, 1-377th FAR. There have also been a number of soldiers injured from IED explosions along the road.

The road is a main supply route to northwestern Iraq, including Tal-Afar and Sinjar.

"The work here helps make the area safer for not only the soldiers who travel these routes, but also for the Iraqi people," Hurley said.

The soldiers have also established an ammo turn-in site, where people can bring ammunition and unexploded ordinance they find, so that it can be disposed of safely.

"There is no better feeling than feeling safe," Hurley said, "and I think we have made this route a lot safer for the soldiers that have to travel it."

Tariff free shopping close

by Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

Off of Highway 2, just south of Dahuk, a ghost town of shopping center buildings and warehouses sits abandoned, waiting for the vendors and crowds to return.

Prior to the war, the facilities were a tariff free area for trade between Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey, according to 2nd Lt. Robert Chamberlain of Topeka, Kan., Company A, 3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

The facilities had been looted during the war, leaving shells of buildings.

The 926 Engineers, 101st Abn. Div. (AAslt.), have contracted Iraqi workers to fix up the facilities.

The \$125,000 contract will cover the replacement of windows and doors, and fixing the electricity and water supply for the facilities.

"Structurally, the buildings aren't in too bad of shape,

Field Artillery repairs school, improves future

by Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

The little girl, in her white summer dress, sat in the doorway of one of a freshly repainted school rooms, drinking a soda and watching the commotion of workers, soldiers and teachers curiously.

"This little girl will never have to know what it is to go to school under Saddam's regime. She will come to school and think that this is the way it is supposed to be," said Maj. Carlos Huerta of Brooklyn, N.Y., a chaplain for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) 320th Field Artillery Regiment.

The 320th has been preparing the schools for the up-coming school year with repairs and supplies. To the soldiers of the 320th, fixing up the schools in their area of responsibility isn't just another mission, it is an investment in future generations.

"It's hard to explain how far these schools have come," said Lt. Col. Mark Murray, commander, 1-320th. "The walls were cracked and the latrines were something you wouldn't let your pets use."

Local contractors were hired to make the repairs, which helps put money back into the community.

All the windows in the facilities were replaced, and the walls were given a fresh coat of paint, including murals around the building and playgrounds.

CENTER, from Page 8

but it just needs the basics so that they can get the vendors back in," said 2nd Lt. Jake Moulin of Osage City, Kan., Co. B, 3-327th, 101st Abn. Div. (AAslt.).

Once repaired, the facilities are projected to earn more than a million dollars

The facilities will also be getting new chalkboards and recreational areas.

According to Capt. Kevin L. Jackson of Chicago, Ill., 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Abn. Div. (AAslt.), the unit plans on addressing the schools' heating issues sometime during September and has ordered new textbooks and basic school supplies for them as well.

"We are still working on getting the new textbooks here. They are supposed to be coming from Baghdad, but we haven't yet received them," Jackson said.

In the 320th's area, there are close to 20 schools that teach more than 15,000 students. Each of the school buildings has roughly 12 school rooms each, and teaches more than 1,200 students.

"I can imagine trying to teach our kids in these conditions," said Col. David Martino of Bridgewater, Mass., commander, 101st Airborne Division Artillery. "I know my son wouldn't be able to keep his attention with the heat the way it's been."

Mosul's mayor, Ganeam al Basso, visited a few of the schools in the area, and was impressed by the work that has gone into making repairs.

"I have noticed a lot of good work. The coalition forces have done a lot," al Basso said.

"This is going to be remembered by the generations to come, like the children in Bastogne in the 40s, who remember the soldiers giving them chocolate bars," Martino said.

monthly for the city of Mosul.

Vendors pay rent for space in the facility to the city.

The money will help fund the cities reconstruction and the local government.

The facility is now being guarded by an Iraqi security force, which is helping to deter anymore looting of the facilities.



Spc. Blake Kent

A few neighborhood children test out the new playground equipment in their school courtyard. According to the soldiers of the 320th helping fix up the schools for the children of Iraq is a top priority.

There are still a number of other repairs soldiers hope to see at the school facilities, if funding permits.

"We'll come up with it one way or another," Martino said. "You have to start building a society with the children. They will have a favorable outlook on what we are doing, and will help build the future relations of our two countries."

"There is a lot more to be done," Huerta said. "If we take care of the children, then our children won't have to be back here and meet on the battlefield. They can meet at a basketball tournament or a laboratory competition."

The school is set to open Sept. 25 for the new school year. The schools usually open in August.

The facility is accessible not only by the highway, but also by train, making it easy to get to not only for shoppers but also for merchants shipping in their products.

"We are working now on just getting the contractors out here working."

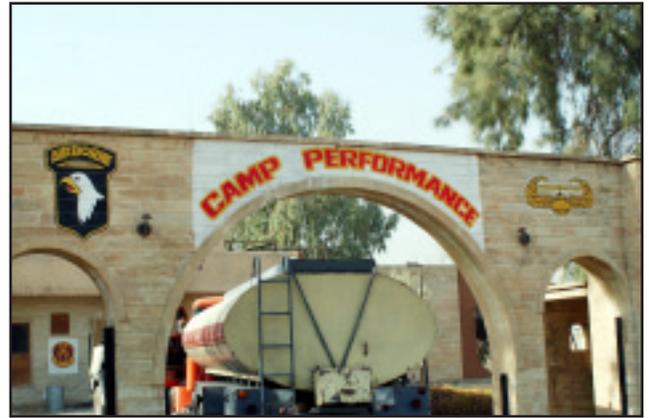
As soon as the funding is lined up the workers will be able to begin repairs.

Camp of the Week

Camp Performance



Photos by Spc. Blake Kent



A lot of work is going into making the Camp Performance facilities look and feel like a home, including artwork capturing the spirit of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).



Soldiers can pick up a juice or soda on the go, at a soda stand set up at the camp.



Camp Performance offers soldiers a cafe with a variety of both American and Iraqi cuisine, including the Sunday special of a double cheeseburger with fries. Soldiers can also catch up on popular music videos while they dine.

PATROL, from Page 5

Kids indeed. Much of the 9-12 morning shift is spent riding slowly through town with an entourage of Iraq's future. Most of these children simply want a little attention from the American soldiers - a wave, a thumbs up or, better yet, a handshake from a U.S. soldier is enough to make their day.

"We're cool to them," a civil affairs soldier said.

"They're the future of Iraq," said a staff sergeant on the morning shift. "If we can make a good enough impression on them now, they'll build a better, more free country and we won't need to be back here in five years."

"I once had a chicken head thrown at me," said Turcotte, explaining how one child got his attention.

While children offer their gratitude, an Iraqi man fluent in English said most adults aren't angry, they're disappointed.

"It's not like Iraqis aren't supportive of the American presence - it's not that it all," he said. "They're just disappointed. When the U.S. came in, most thought all our problems would be solved. Now we know it'll take time."

The squad then drove to a sight where unexploded ordnance had been found the night before. The sight where the UXO lay was marked with tissue paper. The team called an explosive ordnance disposal unit and gave the location.

"There's a lot of time that goes by when nothing happens," Wilken said. "Then all of a sudden you hear gunshots and you feel your heart race."

Wilken and Cabrera agree support from fellow soldiers as well as family and friends goes a long way toward keeping a soldier's spirit high and fears at bay.

"Prayers go a long way," Cabrera said. "I always pray for my guys and we've been fortunate enough to have gone a long time

without a casualty."

"It just pisses me off when people back home forget about us," Wilken said. "A friend of mine was reading a Boston newspaper and in the back of the sports page - the very back - was a story titled 'Soldier killed in raid.' Here we are getting killed while people wonder if Kobe Bryant's been cheating on his wife."

All the trees in Iraq probably couldn't supply the paper Wilken would need to list the places he'd rather have spent his 21st birthday, but last month the Wisconsin-born Packers fan blew out the candles. Wilken envisions that in six months he'll be back home, shaping his brown hair for a Saturday night at the club.

"It'll be nice to tell your friend, working at the movie store back home, 'yeah, you were checking out videos while I was kicking down doors,'" said Wilken, a distinctive smile digging into his face. "But I've gotta stay alive to get there."

The Judge Says...

Items of legal interest to soldiers

Q: Can I sign a legal document in blue ink?

A: People were once told not to use blue ink to sign a legal document. At the time, many photocopy machines could not reproduce an image in blue, so that in the copy the document appeared to be unsigned.

Since today's photocopiers copy documents so exactly, blue ink is sometimes preferred over black, so that the original can be distinguished from the copy.

Q: Annual Legal Checkup: Are you legally fit?

A: Every soldier should have a legal checkup once a year.

What sorts of things should a legal checkup look for? Here are some examples:

- Do you have a will? If so, does it still accurately reflect your desires?
- Do you need a power of attorney? If you have given out a POA, is it still valid?
- Are you up-to-date on your income tax filing? Federal AND state? Do you have copies of your prior year returns?
- Do have certified copies or originals of important legal documents, such as birth and marriage certificates? Are they some-

where easily accessible?

- Do you have copies of all other documents of legal significance, such as divorce decrees, court orders for child or spousal support, leases, etc.?

- Do you have any outstanding legal issues? If so, have you brought them to the attention of an attorney?

- Have you checked your credit report in the past year? Have you attempted to resolve any unfavorable entries?

If you need a legal document or have a legal problem, contact an attorney. Being legally fit is as important as being physically fit!

Preventive law tip of the week:

Most women take their husband's last name in marriage. If a woman marries and changes her last name, she must notify the Social Security Administration of the change.

Without notice, the SSA will consider her maiden name to be her last name. If she uses her married name to file her income taxes, the IRS will disallow her filing status and personal exemption, as the names given the IRS and in the SSA records will not match.

Name change notice must be provided to the SSA.

ORPHANS, from Page 3

of two hamburgers, french fries, a soda and ice cream. The meals were provided by the restaurant on the CMOC grounds.

The restaurant also provided many of the decorations on the grounds.

Another event of the day was face painting. A local caricature artist painted designs on the children's faces and colored the skin of a few soldiers as well.

Soldiers interacted with the children, swimming with them, playing soccer and simply being a friend.

"The children having fun with the soldiers is a good medium for peace," said Chap. (Capt.) John Stutz, CMOC chaplain. "Besides, everyone needs to get away from the routine for a little while."

The children each received a gift bag when it was time for them to leave. The bag contained items such as a T-shirt with the 101st insignia, a beanie baby, a soccer ball and personal hygiene items, according to Wade.

"It's like a high, hard to explain," Wade said. "Seeing the smiles on the children's faces made every bit of work worth it."

GUARDS, from Page 7

ing the money to the guards.

Under the instruction of Rakkasan soldiers, the Iraqis were given the opportunity to continue certain traditions and methods learned in prior military experience, one of which being marching, Fortier said.

"It's kind of a British style," Fortier said of the Iraqi march, his long arms flapping at his side, "with the arms way up in the air."

Man on the Street

What can be done to increase soldier morale ?



“Getting the supplies we need for our equipment.”

-Spc. James Fernandez,
Headquarters and Company
A, 426th Forward Support
Battalion



“We need more entertainment for the soldiers’ morale.”

-Spc. Darrell Garrett,
Denver, Colo., Company
B, 2nd Battalion, 327th
Infantry Regiment

“Living conditions: they’re coming in but it’s a slow process.”

-Staff Sgt. Edward
Heath, Stanunton, Va.,
Headquarters and Head-
quarters Company, 1st
Brigade, 101st Airborne
Division (Air Assault)



“They need to continue on the quality of our living conditions.”

-Spc. Brandon Karsen,
Commerce Township,
Mich., Co. B, 2nd Bn.,
327th Inf. Rgt.



“Getting us home quickly and safely.”

-Pfc. Scott Thompson,
Lima, Ohio, HHC 1st Bde.,
101st Abn. Div. (AAslt.)



“I think that getting a set redeployment date would improve morale for the soldiers more than anything.”

-Spc. Mike Wadle, HHC,
1st Bde., 101st Abn. Div.
(AAslt.)