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# IRAQI DESTINY

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## Where's the propane?

### *Getting propane riotous affair for Mosul people*

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Spc. Blake Kent  
22nd MPAD

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Obtaining propane in the U.S. is no more difficult than a call on the phone or a short drive down the road to a dealer.

In Mosul, where war has only recently ceased, getting propane can turn into a riotous affair.

Soldiers of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) have taken on the task of keeping the peace at fuel stations during this difficult time for the people of Mosul.

"We started peace keeping operations at this propane station yesterday. When the propane that was delivered to the retailer ran out, it was complete chaos trying to keep the people from braking down the doors to get into the station," said Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania native, Staff Sgt. Robert Gallagher, Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, of one station near the city center of Mosul.

The Coalition forces have taken on responsibilities of peace keeping at all stages of the propane delivery, from when the trucks leave the extraction points in southern Iraq, to the factories where the propane is put into individual fuel cans and is escorted to the stations where the propane is distributed, said Lt. Col. Darcy Brewer, executive officer for 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade.

There are eight propane stations where soldiers are posted to aid in keeping the peace during the distribution of fuel.

"We went to the various stations in the area and asked if they wanted our help," Gallagher said. "The majority of them did. I can't see how they could have handled controlling this many people."



*Photo by Spc. Blake Kent*

Nigel Benchoff, Austin, TX. native, 502nd Infantry Regiment, befriends the Mosul children, while keeping the peace at a propane station.

**"Propane" see page 2**

# Streets of Mosul

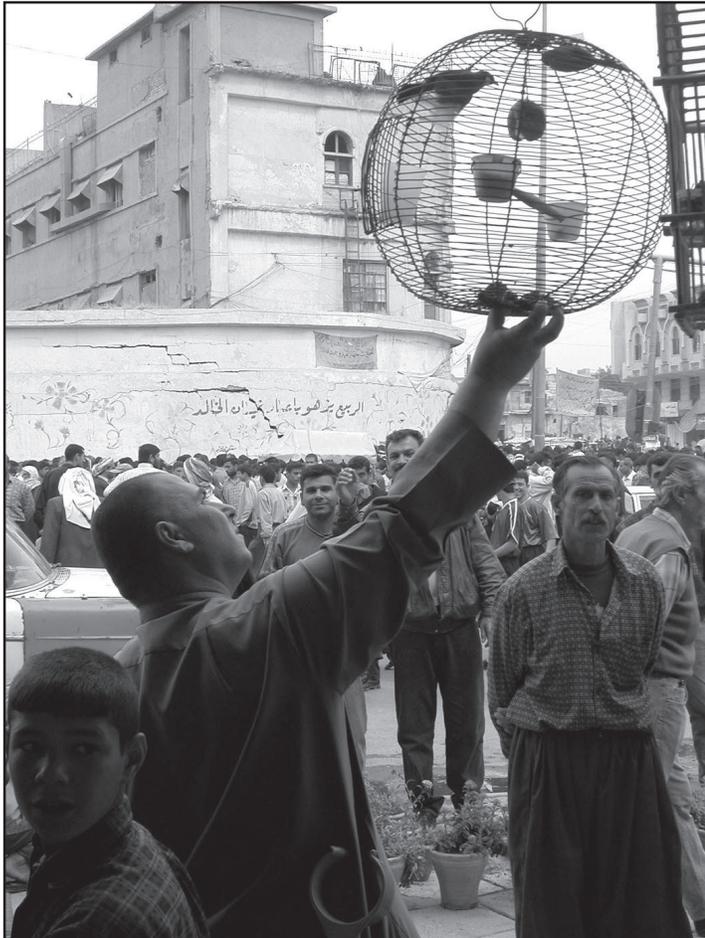


Photo by Spc. Blake Kent

The streets of Mosul are filled with beauty and diversity waiting to be captured, from the bustling markets to quiet streets, there is beauty around every corner.



Photo By Pfc. Mary Rose Xenikakis



Photo by Spc. Blake Kent

## *“Propane” from page 1*

The crowds show up for propane early in the morning, with distribution beginning upon the arrival of the propane trucks, Gallagher said.

According to Brewer, “It’s very important. This is what people use to cook their food. It’s a life sustaining thing for them. Our goal is to get the market back to normal so there isn’t such an over-

exaggerated demand occurring.

“Prices have escalated from 500 Dinar for a propane bottle to 8,000 Dinar. When people aren’t working, it’s difficult to buy gas at normal prices,” Brewer said.

Fuel at the stations is now 500 Dinar per bottle. Soldiers will continue their peace keeping operations at the fuel stations until the market settles and the stations can return to a normal balanced business.

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