

IRAQI DESTINY

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A person in military-style clothing is rappelling down a rope from a metal structure. The background features a sign that reads "AFASIA FORWARD G-WEST Gateway To The 101st.".

Air Assault! School opens for Iraq training

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 Commentary

Physical portions of Air Assault not as important

by Staff Sgt. Mark Swart
40th PAD NCOIC

Last week, The Sabalauski Air Assault School graduated its first class of forward-deployed soldiers at the division's "Q West" base in Northern Iraq.

These soldiers learned sling load operations, and the course featured the same academics as the course back at Fort Campbell. They are now "Air Assault" qualified.

Missing from the class were the road marches, four-mile run, and obstacle course.

Many who earned their wings at the longer, more physically rigorous course back at Fort Campbell, would have a good cause if they said that they had to do so

much more to prove themselves worthy of being "Air Assault" qualified.

In allowing the course to be shortened, the school has confirmed what I suspected all along: the academics of the course are the critical part, the physical portion of the course is a test of will.

If knowing only the academic and hands-on portion of how to conduct "air assault" operations is critical to the 101sts mission, the we have handicapped ourselves in the past by making the physical qualifications so rigorous that they cannot be achieved by a large percentage of soldiers.

In today's Army, soldiers are asked to put their "money where their mouth is" more than they have in decades. We soldier in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia and wherever else in the world we are called to serve. We are an Army of volunteers who choose to be soldiers, regardless

of what is probably the highest sustained operational tempo since World War II.

Anyone in the Army today, at any post, knows that deploying is a matter of "when" and not "if." There are more people in the Army right now wearing combat patches than have in the past 10 years. Not to mention the entire 101st.

After a year in Iraq, our division's soldiers will have proven their dedication to the Army and the division in ways that doing flutter kicks, road marches and climbing towers at Fort Campbell can never compare to.

Perhaps it is time that the Army powers-that-be re-evaluate the qualifications for Air Assault certification. Because if the world's only Air Assault division can justify shortening the course to six days, that makes a pretty strong case for a change in Air Assault schools Army-wide.

Letters to the editor

We are not only thinking of you -- You are our heroes!!!
- We also are worrying about you -- all of you -- and praying hard for your safety!!
You are doing a fabulous job of protecting the future of millions of people. We cannot begin to express our appreciation to you -- and so many of us feel this way.
Take care and protect yourselves - God Bless You and America!!
-Pat and Jerry Costello,

To the 101st Airborne Division,
I know you all are facing a tough job and wanted to say we here in the US appreciate what you are doing--- from a Viet Nam Warrior to a new type of warrior.
-Al Jackson

I am a Submarine Vet of WWII and have learned a lot (I think) in my 78 years on this side of the grass. Keep up your and your fellow compatriots great work. In my opinion, what you are

doing is critically important to the future of the USA and the entire freedom-loving world.

May God Bless all of you in this endeavor and keep you free from harm.
With all Best Wishes,
Neil E. Bahr

Being a retired MSG from the US ARMY it is good to see information that does not make the news however it should so the rest of America knows what is going on over there. If it doesn't fit what our liberal press wants they will not print it. So to let you go and not take up any more of your time I'll let you go and Keep up the good work and God Bless You and the rest of the 101st.
Sincerely,
Gerry Dewald

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On the front: Deployed soldiers can go to Air-Assault School now at Camp Q West, in northern Iraq. The Fort Campbell training team is pinning wings weekly on a few motivated soldiers who can pass the tests. (photo by Spc. Blake Kent)

Air Assault!

No obstacle course, no problem; academic standards still high

Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

QUAYARAH, Iraq -- Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) began Air Assault school earlier this week in an unlikely place, a 101st base called "Q West" in Northern Iraq. The six-day long course began Aug. 15 and provides two days of classroom training, two days of sling-load training and two days of rappelling.

"All of the physical part of the school was taken out," said Capt. Brian Beckno, commander of the Sabalauski Air-Assault School. "We do have climbing ropes though. Upper body strength is very important for rappelling, so the ropes give us a general idea of the condition of the soldiers,"

The 6-mile and 12-mile road marches were removed, as well as the 4-mile runs, due to the time restraints of the class.

"For the people who think this is going to be a cake walk, they are going to be sadly mistaken," Beckno said. "The academic standards are the same here as back in garrison. But, this does give an opportunity for soldiers who wouldn't normally make it through because of the obstacle course to get the training."

"So far we have lost one student in this class to medical, and three to test failures," Beckno said. "There are some things that are different, but we aren't giving anything away out here. There are certain things that aren't requirements for graduation that we were able to remove from the training due to our resources that are available. For example, we don't have an obstacle course here, so the test on the first day is climbing the rope."

With the 101st Abn. Div. (AAslt.) being deployed to both Afghanistan and Iraq within the past two years, the need for soldier training and development in a deployed environment became a major concern for the division.

"With the turn-over that has been occurring with the 101st, which has been very mission driven in the past years, the training here was greatly needed," Beckno said. "The training gives soldiers the knowledge they need for working around aircraft, and builds the confidence the soldiers may not have had with the rappelling."

Soldiers will learn how to sling-load a HMWV, a Howitzer and various cargo loads as well as receive an aircraft orientation for the Apache, the Blackhawk, and the Chinook.

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Deployed soldiers can go to Air-Assault School now at Camp Q West, in Northern Iraq. The Fort Campbell training team is pinning wings weekly on motivated soldiers who can pass the tests.



Spc. Blake Kent

Let's get ready to rumble

Troops rumble in the desert, let gloves do talking at division boxing

by Pfc. Chris Jones
40th PAD

What brought Spc. Kevin Roice's opponent to the floor wasn't necessarily the glorious display of hooks and jabs which brought hundreds of spectators to their feet.

Though Roice's speed and agility in the ring were irrefutably impressive, there was something much deeper than his athletic ability which brought him the victory by technical knockout. The longing for home, the loneliness and fear in the deployment, all the uncertainties and anxieties which plagued him since leaving Fort Campbell seven months ago, came flooding back to him.

"Getting inside that ring just brought out all the aggression, all the pain of missing home," he said. "It spins your emotions all around. It's crazy."

The 167-pound Roice, a soldier with 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, signed up for Smoker Boxing as soon as it was announced in early September. 2-44th organized the event, which was held at a Division Rear dining facility Saturday night.

All soldiers within or attached to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) were invited to beat the stuffing out of their friends – er, opponents, in the ring. When the big night arose, Maj. Gen. David Petraeus and Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill, 101st commanding general and division command sergeant major, and a horde of soldiers came to watch the carnage unfold.

After Roice left the ring, he was hoisted above the shoulders of a pack of Kurdish men with the Joint Iraqi Security Company. No translation was needed for their chants as they lifted Roice; "Hooray!" is a universal term.

Eight fights took place during the two-hour event.

Introducing each contestant with a rowdy, thunderous voice was Staff Sgt. Wayne Ebenreiter, a member of 2-44th who volunteered to host the fight. A friendly rivalry between the 82nd Airborne Division and the 101st floated through the air, and Ebenreiter inflamed it.

"This crowd had better give me a loud



Pfc. Chris Jones

Two soldiers duke it out in the second round of a boxing match at the Smoker Boxing, an event where soldiers fight soldiers. 2nd Bn., 4th ADA, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) organized the event and Don King helped finance it.

'air assault' right now," said Ebenreiter, demanding the crowd scream 'air assault!' Unsatisfied with what he deemed a puny chant, he continued, "I'll stop this competition right now and give it all back! I had better get an air assault right now! I want an air assault!"

A soldier in the crowd belched "airborne," to which Ebenreiter responded with, "Hey, you didn't wait your turn! Now I want a big fat 'air assault!'"

The friendly competition between the two divisions took place between fights. When the time came for two more fighters to take to the ring, a brief silence fell, followed by music. Each contestant made their entrance to the ring with a song of their choice. The music, in addition to the pageant of blood and sweat inside the ring kept spectators on their feet throughout much of the event.

Fighters were allowed to go with or without headgear. For many, the option to wear it didn't matter, because a few minutes in to most fights, a solid hook sent it right off. This set the stage for a night of gritty violence. A doctor was on hand to ensure no fight got out of hand.

Each match was set for three rounds. However, technical knockouts brought many fights to an early finish. Only a few withstood the three rounds to come to a judges' decision.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bruce Ward

knows boxing. With a cousin who competed in Golden Gloves Boxing and a brother who participated in high school boxing, Ward learned a lot about the sport.

Watching from afar, Ward, an engineer with the 1438th Engineer Detachment, Michigan National Guard, said it was more intense than professional boxing.

"More than professional, this resembles street-fighting," he said. "I think poise and passion are important to win these fights. It takes a lot of adrenaline and endurance, as well as knowledge, to keep fighting after you start getting hurt in the ring."

The 54-year old Ward said he's content being in a job where he fights only when it involves the security of freedom.

"I've gotten a little wiser in my older age," he said, smiling. "I fight when I have to for survival, not for fun, although it does get your blood going. And hey, a person could definitely be tempted to get in there."

Acknowledging the chivalrous out-of-the-ring rivalry between the 82nd and the 101st, Ward said the 101st probably had a slight edge.

"It's hard to tell, but my gut feeling is that the 101st has got it tonight," Ward said. "It's a good spirited competition either way. This has just been a lot of fun and a good break from the regular everyday routine."

101st re-opens new oil refinery

by Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

KISIK, Iraq -- A large step was taken to reestablishing trade and stabilizing Northern Iraq's energy crisis when the Kisik Oil Refinery re-opened Monday with a star-studded opening ceremony.

The refinery, inoperable since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, will sell oil to Syria and use the money to purchase electrical power from the neighboring country. In addition, the oil from the refinery will provide fuel for the local area.

Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st

Airborne Division (Air Assault) commanding general, escorted a seven-member congressional delegation led by Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO), the ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, to the opening ceremony. Ghanim al-Basso, governor of the Ninevah Province, joined the 101st commander and the Washington delegation for the festivities.

The 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade has been working with local contractors and engineers to rebuild the facility. The project took nearly a month to complete and \$78,000 from the 101st's Commander's Emergency Relief Program, which draws from seized Iraqi government funds from the first Gulf War.

Petraeus called the refinery "another project that shows there is nothing we can't do when we work together, and work together we will continue to do."

Al-Basso, the first democratically elected governor in Northern Iraq, also thanked

the coalition and local workers during his remarks.

The 101st soldiers and four locally contracted construction companies immediately went to work on the refinery's pumps, pipes, meters, hoses and generators that were in need of repairs. Iraqi security forces also provided security for the refinery after the workday.

"We've created jobs for security and we know we've got permanent jobs for eighty to ninety personnel, that's including managers," Pina said.

The new oil refinery promises to do more for Northern Iraq than create employment opportunities. More than 732,000 liters of fuel oil a day will be produced by the facility, according to Pina. In addition,



Pfc. Thomas Day

Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus (right), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) commanding general, and Col. Michael Linnington, 187th Infantry Regiment commander, discuss rebuilding operations of a Northern Iraq oil refinery with Congressman Ike Skelton (D-MO).

tion, the facility daily production will include:

- 213,000 liters of diesel, which the local economy relies on for electrical power.

- 295,000 liters of kerosene, which is primarily used for heating homes.

- 280,000 liters of benzene, used for fueling automobiles.

Fuel needed to run the facility will be supplied by pipeline from Kirkuk, a predominately ethnic Kurdish town. Pina predicted that the reopened refinery would lead to an increased

independence for fuel in Northern Iraq.

"We're not going to be so dependent on Baghdad for all types of fuels."

Petraeus said that other 101st Airborne projects in Northern Iraq share similar goals with the Kisik refinery mission.

"There are many other projects we are all determined to complete here, and there are countless other projects throughout the Ninevah province, including the Quayarah refinery, that will open with the work of the great Iraqi engineers and workers."

Division gets visit from Congress

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO) met with the soldiers and commanders of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Mosul, Iraq, last week as part of a seven member congressional delegation. Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st Airborne Division commanding general, escorted Skelton and his House colleagues to meet their constituents in uniform before flying in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter to other points of interest around Northern Iraq.

Skelton, the ranking democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, was joined in Iraq by Rep. J. Randy Forbes (R-VA), Rep. John Spratt (D-SC), Rep. Gene Taylor (D-MS), Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL), Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC), and Rep. Jim Marshall (D-GA).

Among the stops on the 101st area of operation tour was an oil refinery in the Iraqi town of Kisik, which was inoperable before coalition forces teamed up with local workers to rebuild the facility. Skelton and Petraeus opened the new oil refinery in a ceremony Monday with Mosul Interim Mayor and Ninevah Province Governor Ghanim al-Basso, who was among the first democratically elected officials in the new Iraq. Al-Basso, a former general in the Iraqi army, was elected to his post after elections on May 5, just weeks after the fall of Saddam.

The oil refinery will be instrumental in reestablishing trade with Iraq's neighbor states. Oil from the refinery, for example, will immediately be used in trade with Syria for electricity.

Petraeus was quick to praise Rep. Skelton's work on the House Armed Services Committee and explained how his work on Capital Hill made the oil refinery project possible.

"(Rep. Skelton) has done more over the last nearly three decades for professional military education in the

See SKELTON, page 11

Engineers teach construction skills to former Iraqi soldiers

by Spc. Joshua Hutcheson
101st Abn. Div. (AAslt.) PAO

The 52nd Engineer Company, a National Guard unit out of Oregon, attached to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) believes in the adage "It's better to teach a man to fish and feed him for life," or in this case teach him to build a home and house him for life.

The engineers are teaching former Iraqi soldiers important construction skills they can use to find new jobs since the fall of the former regime.

With knowledge in masonry, carpentry, electricity, plumbing and other skills used in building, the ex-soldiers will be useful in rebuilding Iraq.

Under the House of Hope project, the former soldiers initially planned to build a house for a family of displaced locals. But the project quickly grew in size, blossoming into the Village of Hope, where 100 homes are scheduled to be built for 800 people, said Maj. Christopher Lestochi, operations officer, 326th Engineer

Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

The Village of Hope will replace an abandoned Iraqi military school in the southern part of the city of Mosul. Currently there are at least 200 displaced families living in the gutted, half collapsed buildings.

The first house built was a prototype three-bedroom house built by the engineers and Kurdish contractors. This house will be the basis of all other homes. Though some might have larger or smaller rooms they'll all look like the prototype, said Sgt. Charles Verbrugge, squad leader, Bravo Company, 52nd Eng. Co.

The construction is to be done under a three-phase process. In the first phase the American engineers taught the Iraqis basic construction skills. The U.S. engineers also had to learn how building is done in the Middle East. The materials and techniques used in Iraq differ from the wood homes the engineers are used to building in Oregon, Verbrugge said.

In the second phase the engineers will supervise the former soldiers as they construct the 100 homes. The prototype was built in a little over a month and a half.

The process should speed up as people hone their skills, Verbrugge said.

"We're teaching them how to build and as we go along it should go faster and faster," he said.

The third phase, the engineers will leave all of the work to the Iraqis. At this point the Iraqi laborers will train their fellow countrymen in construction techniques.

So far there are 30 Iraqis building the village. With proper funding another 30 people could be hired, eventually leading to the formation of an independent Iraqi construction company, Lestochi said.

To date the project has been bankrolled by a Commander's Emergency Relief Program fund belonging to the 101st. But that fund might soon dry up, leaving the engineers looking for a new source of money. They have set up meetings with non-governmental organizations to find more funding, Lestochi said.

If funding continues, the project is scheduled to be completed by May of 2004.

"This exceeds what we thought we'd do, we had no idea what engineers would be doing (in Mosul)," Verbrugge said. "Being involved with this is great."



Spc. Joshua Hutcheson

Former Iraqi soldiers build homes for displaced locals and hone their new construction skills taught to them by the 52nd Engineer Company. It's all part of Village of Hope, a project where ex-soldiers will build 100 homes and acquire marketable skills.

MPs bolster Iraqi police system

by Spc. Mary Rose Xenikakis
22nd MPAD

The military police assigned to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) are working hard to modernize Iraqi law-enforcement in Mosul with modern technology and U.S. – led training.

Cpl. Steve Payne, 511th Military Police Company from Fort Drum, N.Y., explained the many different jobs military police units have been working on throughout sectors in the Mosul.

He said, “Our job is to make sure the police get a current database going so they can get a good track on paperwork and criminal activity in Mosul.”

Handwritten books and logs were used to track years of criminal activity. The Iraqi police had no computerized database.

According to 1st Lt. Steven A. Rulli, 503rd Military Police Battalion from Fort Bragg, N.C., “They had no way of centrally tracking anyone’s criminal activity. We put in computer systems and databases. So essentially, we can now type in a name and get a background check on them.”

The many units combined of National Guard, reserve and active duty components are tasked by the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) to accomplish many important missions for the region.

“Our main mission is to educate, re-train and re-establish their police, we have done that in several different ways,” Rulli said.

The MPs have established the Mosul Police Academy, Iraqi Interim Police Academy and they further train the new Iraqi police at the stations with on-the-job training. “In addition to that,” he said. “We also sustain the local civilians by conducting presence patrols and law enforcement patrols.”

Presence and enforcement patrols at many sectors of the city are joint patrols with the military police and Iraqi police. “We go out with them to show the people we’re being backed by them while they’re establishing their government, and to let them know that we’ve got their backs so people don’t mess with them,” Payne said.

Going out on joint patrols also helps build confidence in the new Iraqi police

force. “The only way to build confidence is by going out and doing the right thing with the people,” Rulli said. “Another way we’re building confidence in the Iraqi police is by taking them out of the job they were doing, and moving them to another job, which gives them a need to learn what they are doing.”

Rulli talked about how the Iraqi police are some of the most willing to learn. He said they’re very impatient with progress and they want things immediately. “This makes it good for us, yet, difficult for us at the same time,” Rulli said. “They want to be the SWAT team for LA now, but we can only bring them so fast.”

The amount of police needed to maintain the city is approximately 4,500. Approximately 2,500 have been hired so far.

“At this point there is a significant

level of dependence,” Rulli said. “They’re dependent on us for the completion of the reconstruction and the rebuilding.”

The military police in Mosul are trying to train the police for operation on a higher standard, so they can be completely independent from the Coalition Forces.

“The most difficult job is retraining and establishing a quality police force according to international standards,” Rulli said. “At the same time we’re trying to eliminate former regime loyalists and Ba’ath Party members who are still in the police force.

He said the military police are constantly working with the police, but still investigating them.

“I think the people are slowly beginning to respect the police,” Payne said. “They lost so much respect before that it’s going to take some time to get it back.”



Spc. Mary Rose Xenikakis

Spc. Robert A. Strickland has fun conversation while on patrols in a residential area in Mosul. The military police have been conducting joint patrols with the local police to help with the security on the street.

Rakkasans open firing range in Tallafar

by Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

With combat operations ongoing, a new firing range opened at the 187th Infantry Regiment forward operating base in Tallafar Thursday.

"It was a combined effort between the brigade, engineering assets, local workers and the 626th (Forward Support Battalion)," said Capt. Elizabeth Curtis of Steilacoon, Wash., 626th FSB.

Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) commanding general, honored the soldiers who were instrumental in building the new range before opening the facility with a ceremonial cutting of the ribbon. The ribbon Petraeus cut was tied around a sign memorializing three Rakkasan soldiers who lost their lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom: Sgt. Justin Garvey, Sgt. Jason Jordan and Sgt. Troy Jenkins.

The 101st commander also expressed hope that the sign would be carried with the 101st back to Kentucky and made into a permanent fixture at Fort Campbell.

"It's great that at this point in the operation that we're getting some training in," Petraeus said. "We are all going to be tested many, many times."

Petraeus presented 101st Airborne Divi-

sion challenge coins to Staff Sgt. Clifton Morehouse of St. Louis, Mo., 326th Engineering Battalion, Staff Sgt. Scott Rick of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. and Sgt. Crawford Leonard of Cincinnati, Ohio, both of the 626th FSB. The three NCOs were instrumental in building the new shooting range. The new facility will serve as an indis-

pensable asset for the 101st, according to Petraeus. "You can't shoot enough."

Soldiers with the 3rd Brigade will qualify at the range company by company in the coming months, according to Curtis. "It just enables the soldiers out here to maintain proficiency while we're still in combat ops," she said.



Pfc. Thomas Day

Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) commanding general, speaks to a group of soldiers as he opens up the new M-4 firing range at the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne headquarters in Tallafar. The range was dedicated to three soldiers, Sgt. Justin Garvey, Sgt. Jason Jordan, and Sgt. Troy Jenkins, who died with the "Rakkasans" during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Riverfest invites locals to visit with soldiers

by Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

QUAYARAH, Iraq -- The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) 1st Brigade hosted the Tigris River Festival here Sep. 17, as show of appreciation to community leaders throughout the area for their hospitality in the past months.

"The people of the Tigris River Valley are always so hospitable to us when we come to their villages, so we wanted to show our appreciation and do the same thing for them," said Lt. Col. Grady King of Plano, Texas, commander of 3rd Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment.

"They have brought in the mayors, police

chiefs and some Peshmerga soldiers here to show them the different types of weapons systems," said Sgt. Isaac Abeyta of Jarlales, N.M., a member of 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment.

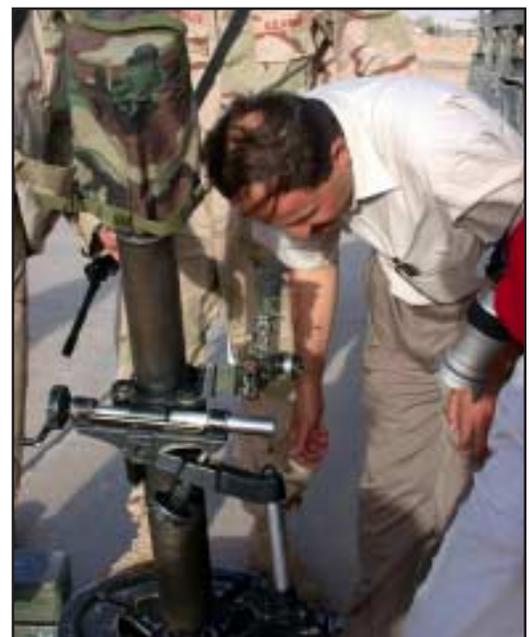
"A lot of them seem more interested in the meeting that is going to happen, but they are pretty interested in the equipment," Jarlales said.

A variety of military equipment used by the 101st was on display, including an armored HMWWV, infantry weapons systems, mortars, engineering equipment, and a medical unit that provided blood pressure checks.

The festival started at 4 p.m. and wrapped up around 7 p.m.

Soldiers and Iraqi soccer players competed in a soccer match, where soldiers received a bit of schooling in the football game.

The division band also performed for the visitors to wrap up the evening.



Spc. Blake Kent

Soldiers show Iraqi visitors various military equipment at the Tigris River Festival.

1/502nd restores, aids Southwest Mosul

by Pfc. Chris Jones
40th PAD

A huge change” has come to Southwest Mosul since 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) began major clean-up efforts in the area three weeks ago.

Sewage, trash and water rank highest on 1st Battalion’s list of reconstruction efforts in Southwest Mosul.

The streets of the Wadi Hajr district of Mosul were covered one foot high in overflowing sewage and trash due to a pipe jam, said Maj. Adam Schroeder, executive officer, 1st Bn.

“All this was covered in sewage and trash, running through these houses and all down the streets,” said Schroeder while standing by the clogged pipe. “The improvement is like night and day. It’s a huge change.”

The Mosul Sewage Department was called on to fix the pipe jam, which entailed working to clean the waste which had surfaced and run down the streets.

“The problem was fixed remarkably fast,” Schroeder said.

Schroeder spoke with various local citizens, one of whom said the sewage problem escalates during the rainy season.

“The rainy season makes a difficult problem for us,” he said.

In previous years, the heavy rain caused the drains to overflow, bringing waste onto the streets and into the houses.

“The root of the problem is that the pipes are too narrow, so they get clogged quickly,” Schroeder said. “The rainy season is worse, because that’s just more junk through the pipes. We’re working on getting these pipes replaced with bigger ones.”

Nearly \$600,000 was allotted to MSD to restore or replace the entire drain system in Southwest Mosul, Schroeder said.

Soldiers from 1st Bn. distributed 300 garbage cans along streets from Wadi Hajr to the Tigris River. However, the only way the streets will remain clean is if Iraqis use the cans.

“A lot of trash is just thrown into the gutters,” Schroeder said. “A lot of them don’t know what problems that causes. We put the trash reciprocals out here, but they won’t do any good unless they use them.”

1st Bn. leaders meet with Mosul municipal directors three times a week to discuss ways to improve trash maintenance, Schroeder said.

Villages outlying Mosul rely heavily on water – many are farming communities

with animals to look after. To sustain the well-being of citizens of these towns, 2nd Bn. provides 25 truck loads of water each week. This provides each citizen nearly 200 liters of water weekly, said Staff Sgt. Austin Howell, platoon sergeant, 4th Plt.,



Pfc. Chris Jones

Maj. Adam Schroeder, executive officer, 1st Bn., 502nd Inf. Regt., and an interpreter, look at the progress made on a road formerly covered in sewage and trash.

Camp of the week: Camp Leader



This week's camp is Camp Leader, located in the 3rd Brigade area of responsibility. (Right) A group of 1-187 soldiers sit down and email their families; (Above) Camp Leader features a weight room set up outside their tactical operations center, including this nascent leg press machine; (Top) Well-wishes from a Clarksville elementary school hang inside the 1-187 Infantry Regiment tactical operations center; (Above right) Spc. Brad Skiroback of Milwaukee, Wis., 1-187th Infantry Regiment, picks up his lunch from the Leader shop.

AIR ASSAULT from page 3

Contributions in Iraq came from engineering units, who built a rappelling tower, as well as other units that supplied both equipment and time in setting up the school, including painting murals on the school's buildings.

"The tower was built from parts of a rail-car that was welded to the track," Beckno said. "The car was evidently some form of missile launching system. This is the first time TSAAS has been on foreign soil doing training.

"This has been a very professional, thorough and exciting class, and we, of course, are all excited about being the first class in history to have done the training in a combat zone," said Sgt. 1st Class Brad Bonnell of Columbus, Ohio, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Abn. Div. (AAAslt.).

There will be 14 classes of 150 students per class.

SKELTON from page 6

U.S. Military than probably any other member of Congress. The innovation, the initiative and the education capable of collaborating on a project like this is in fact due to the training that our officers and (non-commissioned officers) have received and Congressman Skelton has played an important role in its design."

101st Airborne Division engineers teamed up with local contractors to complete the \$78,000 project, financed by the 101st Commander's Emergency Relief Programs, which draws from seized Iraqi government funds after the first Gulf War.

"You have done a marvelous job," Skelton told the Screaming Eagles. "We're working with the Iraqis to make this a more stable and safe place for Iraqis and for Americans so it will not be a snake pit for terrorists."

BOXING, from page 5

Legendary boxing promoter Don King financed the event. Water bottles, white knit shorts, bags of candy mints in American Flag wrapping, gloves, hats, caps, t-shirts and other items were donated by King.

Staff Sgt. Franklin Eldridge, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2-44th, spent several weeks trying to find financial assistance for the fight, until he finally sent an e-mail to King's secretary and found "gracious approval."

Eventually, Eldridge spoke with King on the telephone.

"I asked [King] for financial support in the event," Eldridge said, "and he was extremely gracious."

"I send my heartfelt thank you to you, your division and all of our men and women deployed in Iraq," King wrote in an e-mail to Eldridge. "Please take care of yourselves and I hope you are able to come home soon."

A much bigger boxing event could be on the horizon for soldiers in Mosul. After speaking with King about Smoker Boxing, they began talking about the possibility of following up with an exhibition match involving World Welterweight Champion Ricardo Mayorga in Mosul.

The Associated Press called Mayorga "easily one of the most exciting fighters on the planet these days. His reckless style of well nourished mayhem inside the ring is already quite legendary."

"I told King, 'if you can come over here, it'll boost the soldiers' morale like you wouldn't believe,'" Eldridge said. "Right now, he's lobbying for government support, and he's got one of his lawyers and the USO (Uniformed Services Organization) working on it. He's also trying to bring some musicians and dancers out here for the fight. King is a true American. Many people take shots at him, and he just keeps on going, and that's what our division is all about."

According to a press release emitted by King's staff, the event could take place in January if King and Eldridge can get government support.

"This was a real morale booster for both the soldiers and tournament participants alike," Eldridge said.

The event closed up before 8 p.m., and soldiers quickly emptied the 'arena', making playful jabs at one another. Inside, Ebenreiter's voice could still be heard, wandering through the darkening night: "I want an 'air assault'!"

The Judge Says...

Items of legal interest to soldiers

Q: How does a class action lawsuit work?

A: Suppose you go on a Caribbean cruise, but instead of having fun in the sun, you get a bad case of food poisoning. Suppose also that you are not alone; 200 fellow passengers also got sick.

If the people who got sick wanted to sue the cruise line, would they each have to hire their own attorney? Would it mean 200 separate lawsuits?

A "class action" suit is...

After a certain period of time, certain crimes or civil actions may no longer be brought to court. That period of time is often referred to as the "statute of limitations."

For example, when a group of individuals similarly affected join together in a common lawsuit. In that way, one or more persons can share attorney fees and the expenses of pursuing a civil case. In theory, this sounds like a good thing.

Potential members of the class may be contacted and asked to join in the suit, which would give them an opportunity to share in any judgment or settlement. Most breach of contract actions must be filed within four years.

This may seem like a legal loophole, but some cases cannot be conducted fairly after too much time has passed.

Sharing can be negative though, as a class action judgment or settlement may be smaller than a separate court action, and it is divided among the members of the class. When you hear about large awards in the courts, those are often not class action cases, and if they were, the award would have to be divided among class members.

Speak to an attorney if you are considering a class action suit.

Preventive law tip of the week:

If you dial a "900" telephone number, you will be charged a fee. The fee may be a lump sum, like \$50.00, or a rate as high as \$5.00 per minute.

People are often lured into calling "900" numbers by promises of a free vacation or a great business opportunity. Once they call, they may be put on hold or asked to listen to a recorded message, which increases the length and cost of the call. Never dial a "900" number unless you know the cost of the call and are willing to pay that amount.

Man on the Street

How do you feel about an Air Assault school in Iraq?



“Different weather, different terrain. It just shows how versatile the Army can be.”

- Spc. Derrick Fisher, 314 Military Police Company



“This is where they’ll be applying it, so it’s good to have it here.”

- Cpl. Denise Macdonald, 314th MP Co.

“I think it’s good. Air Assault school teaches discipline and esprit de corps, and there’s nothing wrong with that.”

- Staff Sgt. Tim Dougherty, 530th MP Battalion



“I don’t think we should do it. I think they should concentrate on the problems at hand.”

- Spc. David Grant, 156th MP Co.



“I think we need to worry about RPGs and IEDs hitting our humvees first, then worry about Air Assault school later.”

- Staff Sgt. Donald Trimbe, 530th MP Bn.



“If it’s got the same standards, then go for it.”

- Sgt. Michael Taya-punta, 314th MP Co.