

# IRAQI DESTINY

Volume 1, Issue 48

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**School back in session  
for Ninevah Province**

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SHURGARD

# 101<sup>st</sup> soldier takes law school entry exam in Iraq

by Pfc. Thomas Day  
40<sup>th</sup> PAD

**M**OSUL, Iraq — The infantry is as diverse as gumbo. Enlisted infantrymen come from all walks of life — from the plains of Nebraska to the city streets of New York.

They just don't often come from the Ivy League.

Spc. Steven Carley, 24, is no average infantryman. Carley, who completed his undergraduate degree from Loyola University (Chicago) in economics, enlisted in the Army in 2002 after completing his master's in international relations from Columbia University in New York.

Just weeks after completing enlisted training, Carley deployed to Kuwait with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) right in time for the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Carley and his unit, the 101<sup>st</sup>'s 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade are currently operating out of Mosul, patrolling the city as part of the division's rebuilding effort in the northern region of Iraq.

After seven months in combat, he now finds himself fighting a different battle: getting into law school. Carley made history Tuesday morning in Mosul, becoming the

first applicant ever to take the LSAT, the standard law school entry exam, in a combat zone.

"There was a lot of red tape," he said. Carley received help from Capt. Jamie Phillips, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Staff Judge Advocate, in setting up a time and place where he could take the exam. "The only other places were Tel Aviv and Cairo...that was out of the question."

He will have to ace the exam to get into any of the schools he is applying for. If all

goes well, the Atlanta native will be starting law school in August 2004 at either Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Georgetown or his hometown Emory University.

Before the exam, Carley said he was confident. He will not find out the test results for several months.

Regardless of how well he scored on the exam, his application is not lacking in "real world" credentials. In the applications' personal statements, Carley used the oppor-

tunities to talk about how combat in Iraq taught him "to function with a level head when the stakes could be no higher."

"The Army puts you in a situation where you have to work with and fight beside individuals from every socio-economic and educational background," he said. "It has the effect of opening ones eyes."

Appropriately, Carley hopes to focus on Public Interest law and represent the "less fortunate."



Courtesy photo

Spc. Steven Carley, an infantryman from 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) prepares to try his hand at law school by taking the law school entry exam administered in Mosul, Iraq.

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## 8-101 Aviation invests in Iraq's future with school projects

Spc. Blake Kent  
22<sup>nd</sup> MPAD

MOSUL, Iraq -- Students of the Al Kifah Intermediate School, Mosul, Iraq, were bright eyed at the start of the new school year, arriving on the first day of classes to find new furnishings and new computers in many classrooms.

Soldiers of Company B, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault), worked all summer to see that the school in Al Sazare Square would be ready for the coming school year.

The reconstruction project began with \$10,000 of project funds, which helped clean and paint the facilities, repair windows and fix plumbing, along with other repairs, said Capt. Chris M. Stallings, Co. B, 8-101<sup>st</sup>.

An additional \$7,000 went to purchase furniture and desks for the school.

The soldiers of Company B didn't stop there also took an extra step of getting friends and family back in the U.S. to donate supplies for the school.

"I e-mailed my father, who is retired from the Army. He took the ball and went to his Rotary Club and had them all donate," Stallings said.

Support came to the troops from the Armed Forces Communications and

Electronics Association, National Defense Industrial Association, Anteon Corporation, Advanced Engineering & Research Associates, Inc., AHTNA Development Corporation, DynCorp Information & Enterprise Technology, L3 Communications, Wal-Mart Supercenter in Orlando, Florida, and the Raytheon Technical Service Company.

The companies donated five computers and one printer, as well as a number of additional boxes of various school supplies.

The students weren't the only ones excited to see the new equipment.

"The future will be better now," said Mubashir Hameed, a biology teacher in the school. "These computers will help us provide the students a better education."

According to Hameed, the current curriculum the school uses for his biology class is more than 10 years old.

"All the units in the books are old, and science has advanced so much," Hameed said. "We really needed these computers. They are a window for the future."

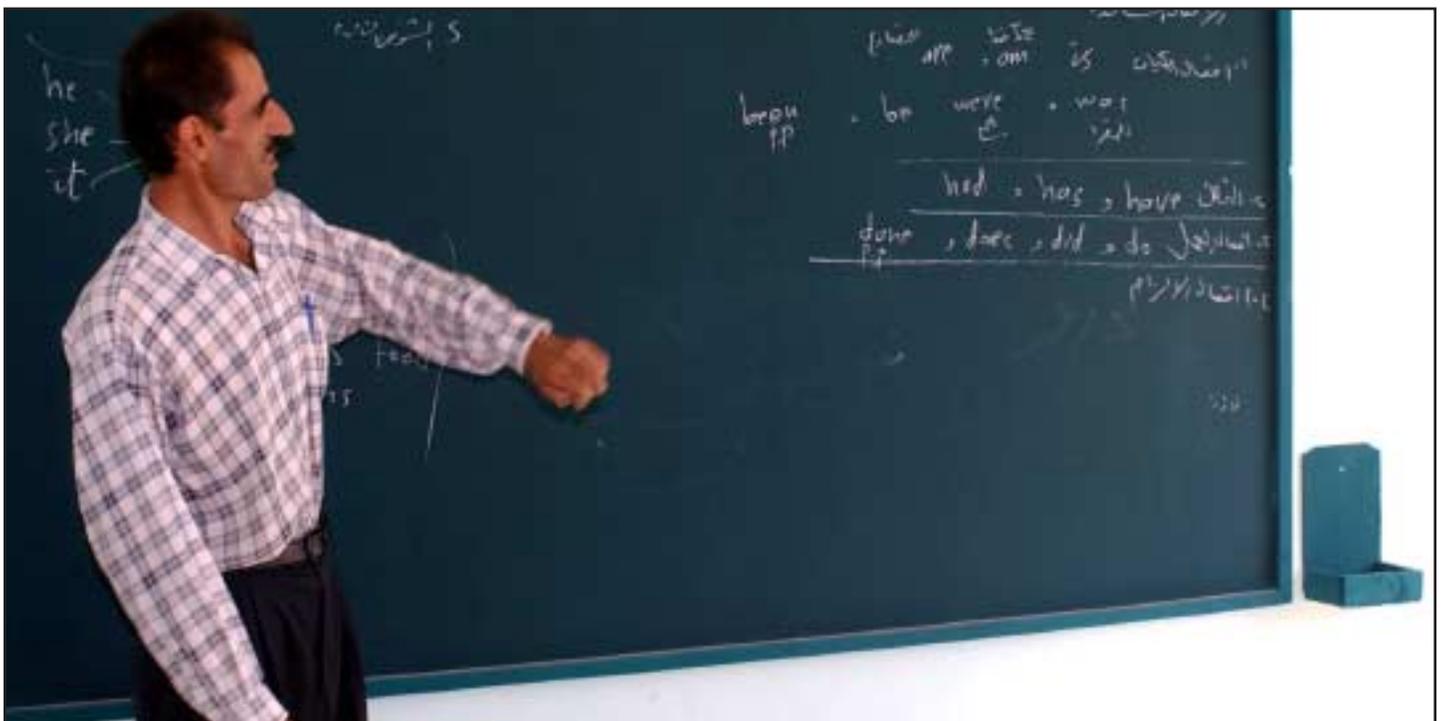
The soldiers of Co. B plan to continue support of the school, ensuring that the students have a head-start in the new free Iraq.

"The future of Iraq is these kids," Stallings said. "They are seeing something at their age that even their teachers haven't experienced before."



photos by Spc. Blake Kent

(Above) It is back to school for the children of the Al Kifah school in Mosul, Iraq. The children begin this school year in a renovated building and also have computers to learn on. The reconstruction work was done by the 8th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment and the donations of computers and school supplies came from U.S. companies. (Below) This teacher teaches children English. Soldiers of the 8-101st spent the summer remodeling this school, including the installation of donated computers for the students to learn on.



# Iraqi soldiers take responsibility for ammunition point

by Spc. Joshua Hutcheson  
101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) PAO

**M**OSUL, Iraq -- Coalition soldiers relinquished security and guarding responsibilities of Objective Jaguar, an ammo supply point, to the soldiers from Delta Company, part of the Iraq Civil Defense Corps in a relief in place ceremony Wednesday.

The ammo supply point that the Iraqis will guard is 12 square kilometers, and has been guarded by 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) for the last five months.

"The mission to secure the ammo supply point is important. . . it's larger than the city of Mosul," said Lt. Col. Kevin Felix, commander, 2nd Bn., 320th FA.

Besides Objective Jaguar, the ICDC will secure the nearby Al Hatra hotel as well as 2,000 year-old ruins that are in the area, said Staff Sgt. Ricardo Mendez, cadre member, Headquarters and Service Battery, 2nd Bn., 320th FA.

"The ICDC is the cornerstone to building the new Iraq," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Gullett, cadre leader, HSB, 2nd Bn., 320th FA. The soldiers of the ICDC underwent

two phases of training by American soldiers. First they spent two weeks in a basic training camp at Camp Claiborne in Mosul. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) trained the Iraqis in marksmanship, drill and ceremony and other military disciplines.

After a period of leave for the Iraqis, soldiers from 2nd Bn., 320th FA, took the soldiers to Objective Jaguar, outside of the village of Al Hatra, for another week of training.

The eight cadre members continued with marksmanship training and physical training and first aid, Mendez said.

In addition, the Iraqis were given classes on running observation posts, gate guarding, detaining people and searching vehicles, Gullett said.

"It was a new experience and it was fun," said Staff Sgt. Terrele McGhee, cadre member, HSB, 2nd Bn., 320th FA.

"Training has been mostly easy, but also difficult at times because of the language barrier," said Warrant Officer Denis Pelts, ICDC officer in charge, HSB, 2nd Bn., 320th FA.

The training of the ICDC gave the American and Iraqi soldiers a chance to get to know each other and learn from the different cultures. The Iraqis showed a desire to

learn what they could.

"I'm very proud of the Iraqis, they're quick learners," Mendez said. "And they're very proud of themselves, they know what they're doing and they have good leadership."

"They have great leadership and motivation," Pelts said. "With the limited amount of training they got they're outstanding."

The relief in place ceremony marks a change that is occurring all over northern Iraq, Iraqis taking responsibility and care of their own country.

The goal of the 101st is to eventually have the Iraqis able to run their country without assistance from coalition forces.

"This is important because it represents assumption of responsibility by Iraqi forces," said Col. Ben Hodges, commander, 1st Brigade, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). "(The transition has) gone surprisingly smooth, I'm very encouraged."

"The ICDC is the key to rebuilding and stabilizing Iraq," Pelts said.

With the ICDC taking over securing sites in the Al Hatra area, the 101st soldiers will take a supervisory role, making sure in the upcoming months that everything goes well as more responsibility is transferred.



Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler

101st Airborne Division Commander, Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus speaks to Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldiers after a relief in place (RIP) ceremony Oct. 1 at Objective Jaguar, the Al Hadr Ammunition Supply Point.

## Division, NGOs team to rebuild schools outside of Mosul

by Pfc. Thomas Day  
40th PAD

Summer vacation was anything but for the coalition soldiers and non-governmental organizations who helped rebuild or are currently rebuilding more than 800 schools in the Ninevah Province, temporary home of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault).

The division's Commander's Emergency Relief Fund, which draws from seized Iraqi government funds after the first Gulf War, has to date spent \$2,040,513 on 330 completed school projects – including the recently opened Ninevah Province education headquarters in Mosul.

Division field-grade and general officers have made nearly a daily hobby of opening schools with ceremonious ribbon cutting ceremonies around Northern Iraq over the last three months.

Lt. Col. Kevin Felix, 2-320<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment commander, opened three schools in the town of Tal Abtah Monday. "In the past they had mud houses for schools," Felix said. "Now they have brick buildings."

Indeed, for many students and teachers in Northern Iraq, the schools they arrived to scarcely looked like the ones they left last June. Oct. 1 marked the first day of school for all public primary and secondary school students throughout Iraq.

Additional funds are currently directed at 382 projects that have not been completed.

Schools in need of simple supplies and new windows, or a complete renovation, have received a helping hand from 101<sup>st</sup> CERP funds and NGO's.

"The students are eager to go back, especially those who are going to new, renovated schools," Sgt. First Class Rocky Upchurch of New Deal, Texas, 431<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion. Upchurch has worked with the education headquarters and numerous schools during the summer rush to rebuild schools. "It looks like their enrollment is going to be higher than the last two years."

Upchurch has also worked with several non-governmental organizations from all over the globe, including the United Nations Development Program. The NGO's have provided additional muscle with "a lot of the little stuff," including fixing non-functional restrooms that made a

normal school day quite a foul experience.

While early reviews are good on the multi-million dollar investment, the division has run into road bumps in the first week of school. One school in the town of Quyarrah, for example, was not holding classes five days after it was expected to open in spite of a \$2,500 grant to the faculty. When Capt. Kellie Rourke of Minneapolis, Minn., 101<sup>st</sup> Aviation Brigade, inspected the school Tuesday, she said she found it filthy, nowhere near ready for lessons.

"When we asked (the school faculty) about it, they said it was the guards duty

to clean the school," Rourke said. "We have a school like this, the Ministry of Education is providing them teachers and yet they have taken so poor care of their school. We want them to demonstrate that this village cares about the school."

Students will now be taught at a nearby school until it can be readied for class. Rourke noted that similar incidents were not frequent in the area.

"Every village has an educated (local). Those people are helping us," she said. "Many of the villagers are chipping in money and paying teachers themselves."



Pfc. Thomas Day

A 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) soldier wows a group of students at a local all-girls school with his point-and-shoot camera.

# Quyarrah oil refinery opens after 17 year hiatus

by Pfc. Thomas Day  
40<sup>th</sup> PAD

QUYARRAH, Iraq -- This was Saleh Ahmed's day. The man who maintained the Quyarrah Oil Refinery through its 1986 closing, four bombings during the Iran-Iraq war, 17 years of inactivity and \$46,000 in Coalition-supported renovations, stood proudly Tuesday as his factory came to life again once again.

For nearly two decades, Ahmed paid guards to protect the facility and its benzene and asphalt base stockpile that will now be used in production. The Oil Ministry in Baghdad had no interest in reopening the plant, but with support from the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Col. Ben Hodges, the division's First Brigade commander, the refinery is now the largest employer in this town of roughly 30,000 people, south of Mosul.

Hodges and Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) commanding general, were quick to praise the man whose 17 years of service saved the more than 400 jobs the plant now provides.

"Today is a day for Saleh Ahmed, the other managers of this oil refinery, and the workers of this refinery. Right now I want to salute you and all you have done,"

Petraeus said during the ceremony. "This is a true triumph for Iraq and Iraqis," he added. "What they have done in recent weeks has been nothing short of miraculous."

The oil refinery is currently operating at only a quarter of its capacity. Petraeus promised more Coalition-supported improvements in employee housing, working conditions and productivity during his remarks.

Ahmed spoke briefly through a linguist to conclude the opening ceremony, and

thanked the Coalition for the support. "The coalition has supported us with everything we needed," he said.

The refinery will now go to work on providing asphalt base (a thick tar-like substance) for the northern region of Iraq, used for cement and roads.

In addition, the plant produces diesel fuel – a byproduct of the production process that will power the facility. In fact, there is no fuel line into the refinery. When the plant is operating correctly, it is self-sufficient.



Pfc. Thomas Day

Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) commanding general, tours the Quyarrah Oil Refinery with Saleh Ahmed (right), who maintained the facility for 17 years since it was shut down during the Iran-Iraq war.

## November 13 deadline set for holiday parcel mailings

by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- If you want make sure your holiday packages arrive to service members overseas on time, mail them by Nov. 13.

Otherwise, your package could very well be on the proverbial "slow boat to China," said Mark DeDomenic, chief of postal operations for the Military Postal Service Agency.

Military postal operations employees ship about 250,000 pounds of mail each day to Iraq. That number is expected to go up to about 325,000 pounds each day during the year-end holiday season, which is why DeDomenic suggests that people mail holiday packages early.

"Mailing early is the best way to ensure that mail gets through the pipeline and to

its destination on time," he said.

The Military Postal Service Agency has set the following deadlines for holiday mail:

Parcel Post, Nov. 13; Space Available, Nov. 28; Parcel-Airlift Mail, Dec. 4; Priority and First-Class Letters or Cards, Dec. 11.

Those dates also should be observed when sending mail from most overseas locations to the United States as well, DeDomenic said. The Army's 1st Armored Division has a pop-up window that appears on its Web site, linking to an electronic information sheet with specific guidance for people sending mail to and from Germany.

Other tips for faster delivery include mailing smaller packages. "The smaller the package, the easier it is to handle, the quicker we can move it," DeDomenic said. "Shoe box-sized packages are perfect."

Because packages going to an APO or

FPO address will require a U.S. Customs label, DeDomenic said, senders should be specific about what is inside the package. "People tend to like to put on the customs label 'Gifts,'" he said. "This is very vague and that is the type of thing that will slow mail down. We must know exactly what is in those boxes to ensure that they are mailable items."

Although some service members move from place to place, DeDomenic said customers should mail packages to the recipient's most recent known address. Although in most places mail will reach its destination in a timely manner, troops on the move often mean that mail will have to be forwarded. "The packages will catch up, but sometimes it may take a little longer," he said.

It's a good idea to place a copy of the address inside the package, just in case

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# 2,000 run Anaconda Ten-Miler in Iraq

by Pvt. 2 Christopher Fincham  
3rd COSCOM PAO

BALAD, Iraq - About 2,000 runners converged on Logistical Support Area Anaconda Oct. 5 to participate in the inaugural Anaconda Ten-Miler.

The run, sponsored by the 3rd Corps Support Command, corresponded with the annual Army Ten-Miler held in Washington, D.C., on the same day.

"We wanted to do something this fall to give soldiers an activity to look forward to and train for," said Maj. Alex Fink, the race director. "Something to kind of get their minds off of being away from home."

Originally expected to be a smaller event with runners just from the post, the 10-miler quickly ballooned as runners from posts all over Iraq came to the installation north of Baghdad, located near the town of Balad.

"There's definitely a lot more runners than we expected to see," said Fink, who explained that organizers originally anticipated only 400 to 500 participants.

About 1,500 troops actually registered to run the 10-miler, and organizers said about 500 to 600 more ran unregistered -- pumping the total to about 2,000 participants.

Some soldiers ran in formations that were unregistered, and officials said there were also a few unregistered individual runners.

While intended to be a fun, enjoyable run, it was still a race. Broken down into various categories - overall male, overall female, numerous age groups, relay teams - winners received trophies and other prizes provided by companies such as DHL delivery service and Kellogg, Brown and Root who support the military operations in Iraq. All registered runners will receive something for their efforts, according to Fink.

"Every finisher gets a medal," said Fink. Some ran for the competition, some for the

exercise, and some just for a break from the routine, said Fink.

"It shows the spirit of America and the strength of the Army, having a 10-mile run out here under these conditions," said Fink.

Spc. Adrian Camano of the 253rd Transportation Company said it was a personal challenge for him to complete the 10 miles.

"I just wanted to see if I could do it," said Camano. "I was really surprised with myself. It feels really good." Camano finished in the middle of the pack at one hour and 32 minutes, roughly 33 minutes behind the race winner Maj. Jeff Olive, who finished in 59 minutes and four seconds.

The top female runner was Chief Warrant Officer 3 Angela Jewett, from Fort Campbell's 101st Corps Support Group, at one hour and eight minutes and the top relay team was the 130th Engineer Brigade's 957th Mobile Ribbon Bridge Company.



Maj. Scott Slaten

Soldiers proudly display their colors as they run Logistical Support Area Anaconda's 10-miler Oct. 5 in Iraq.

# One-bank town prepares for exchange

*With renovations to Tallafar's primary bank underway, city will rely on smaller bank*

By Pfc. Chris Jones  
40th PAD

TALLAFAR, Iraq -- Nearly 500,000 Iraqi citizens in the Tallafar region will depend on just one bank for the currency exchange beginning Oct. 15, due to unfinished reconstruction efforts on a larger bank due to be complete in November.

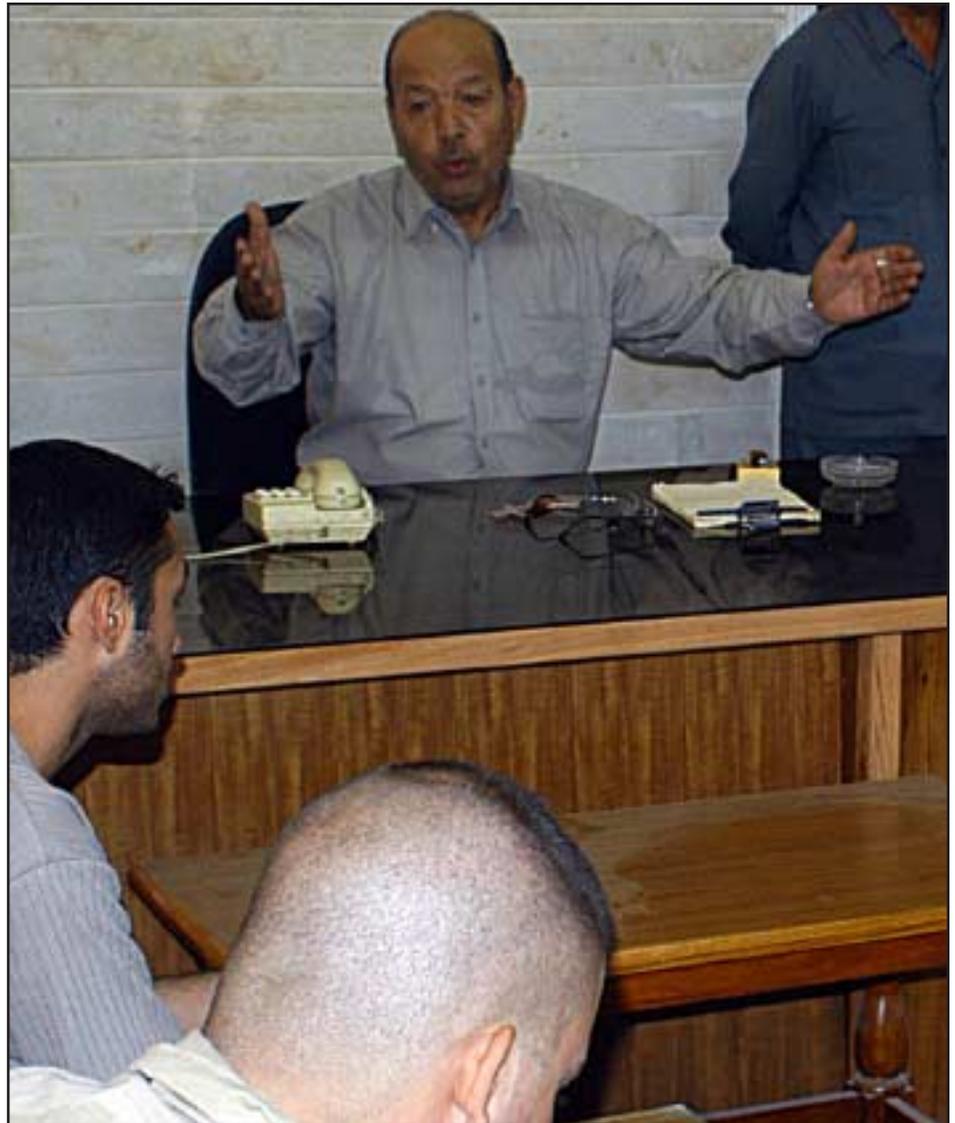
The currency exchange, which will be the largest ever conducted according to 187th Infantry Regiment fire direction officer Maj. William Mason, is causing frustration and frenzy among Coalition Forces and Iraqis alike. At the Tallafar Agriculture Bank Tuesday morning, Mason told manager Abdul Younis Abdallah he would be in charge of directing the only bank in the Tall Afar area involved in the three-day exchange, which will permanently remove Saddam's picture from the Iraqi dinar.

The 187th Infantry Regiment, headquartered outside Tallafar, paid contractors \$16,000 to complete work on the city's primary bank, Tallafar Rafidain Bank. The Ministry of Finance had also spent \$60,000 on the bank. However, when Mason arrived at the bank Tuesday, he saw that the bank was far from ready to tackle the exchange. Much of the floor needed tiling, an undertaking requiring an additional \$22,000 from the Ministry of Finance. Furthermore, the steel door to the money vault had not been installed.

"The door isn't doing any good if it's not installed," Mason said to the construction foreman at the Rafidain Bank. "It's like I go in to get a new starter put in my car and you give me a starter in a box and say, 'where's my money?'"

The Rafidain Bank, which will be the largest bank in the region, is now expected to be completed in November, Mason said. Rafidain manager Mohammed Ali Maajan said he would do everything he can to assist Abdallah and the Agriculture Bank with the exchange, but the one thing most needed by the Agriculture Bank is what the Rafidain Bank is also deficient of - trained bankers.

The bank will require three individuals to work each of the bank's three counters - one to collect, one to check for fraud and one to count - demanding a total of nine



Pfc. Chris Jones

Abdul Kader Younis Abdallah, manager of the Tall Afar Agriculture Bank, shows his frustration the Oct. 15 currency exchange is putting on his bank. Due to continuing restoration efforts on other banks, Abdallah's bank will cover approximately 500,000 people in Northern Iraq.

bankers. The Agriculture Bank has only three.

To fill this void, the Agriculture Bank will "borrow" help from banks in Mosul that weren't approved by the Ministry of Finance to conduct the exchange, Mason said.

According to Mason, the Agriculture Bank will receive so much money it will be counted in weight, not amount.

"There's so much money coming here, it won't even be in numbers," he said to Abdallah. "It'll be counted in tons. A truck will offload 40 boxes, each weighing 100 lbs., for a total of about two tons of money."

Banks will continue to accept and replace

the former Iraqi dinar until Jan. 15, 2004, said Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, 101st assistant commander of operations.

"This is the largest currency exchange in the world ever - ever," Mason said to Abdallah, hunched over his office desk tapping a pen on a notepad. "It is very, very important that this go without errors. This is a time in history when this has become absolutely critical to go perfectly. This train is moving, and it's not going to stop."

As Abdallah's pen tapping grew louder, he turned to Mason and softly said, "This is not going to work."

"It's going to work," replied Mason, "because it has to work."

# Helmet patch pays tribute to WWII signaleers

by Pfc. Chris Jones  
40th PAD

**M**OSUL, Iraq -- Clad in desert camouflage uniforms and modern battle gear, soldiers today look nothing like they did in World War II. But the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) is slowly reviving the spirit of its lineage with the reinstatement of unit distinctive helmet emblems similar to those worn 60 years ago in Europe.

The 501st Signal Battalion joined the 101st's three infantry brigades in the resurrection of its World War II unit helmet patch in a ceremony last Wednesday night at the Division Main command post in Mosul.

From the invasion of Normandy to the end of the war in Europe, soldiers of the 501st wore helmets with a box and a small tick mark on each side. The same emblem will now be worn, but with a lightning bolt in the center of the box symbolizing the technological advancements which have made the unit more efficient, said 501st commander Lt. Col. Welton Chase, Jr.

The designs for the 101st's helmet patches in World War II were based on a deck of cards. The 502nd Airborne Infantry Regiment wore a heart; the 327th Glider Infantry Regiment wore a club, and the 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment wore a spade.

After World War II, the three regiments abandoned the patches. However, the 187th Infantry Regiment "Rakkasans," which used the Japanese Torii, continued to use the symbol, and it has since become the defining mark of the Rakkasans.

Before leaving Fort Campbell, Ky., the home of the 101st, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 502nd and the 327th joined the 187th in reinstating their World War II symbols.

To prepare for the invasion of Normandy, soldiers sewed their unit emblem on their helmet so they could find members of their unit after the invasion left them inevitably scattered across the French shoreline and in the woods, Chase said.

"Wherever they went in combat, the helmet was always the defining mark," Chase said. "Normandy left many soldiers scattered, so the symbols on their helmet

helped them trace down other guys from their unit. On the battlefield, you can look and see immediately where a soldier is from.

The same idea from World War II applies today. Everything that's done in the field goes faster if you can identify a soldier's unit just by looking at their helmet."

Reinstating a unit's helmet patch remains a commander's decision, and Chase said he doesn't feel it's unlikely other units will come around to sewing their legacies on their helmets as well.

"It wouldn't surprise me to see others resurrect their patches too," he said.

The ceremony marked the first time 501st soldiers have worn the symbol since World War II.

"We use this distinct patch to link our

past to our present, and it offers a bridge to the future of the 101st Airborne," Chase said. "Wherever we go in Iraq, our soldiers will remember with honor who fought and died before us."

Maj. Gen. William Lee, the first commander of the 101st, said before the division's entry into World War II, "The 101st has no history, but it does have a rendezvous with destiny."

After World War II, the 101st had rung his words true, becoming the first and only division to be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. Command Sgt. Maj. Linza Chapman, 501st command sergeant major, said this history should not only be known, but shown.

"We've got a history," Chapman said. "We might as well tell it -- might as well show it."



Pfc. Chris Jones

Two soldiers with the 501st Signal Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) display the patch the battalion's troops will begin wearing on their kevlar helmets. The symbol was worn during the battalion's efforts in World War II. The lightning flash in the center of the box was added to reflect the technological enhancements essential to military communication.

# Airlines offer discounts for R & R flights

by Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Service members returning home from Southwest Asia for rest and recuperation leave can now get discount fares for connecting flights after they arrive at the Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

The R&R program, which began Sept. 25, provides free flights to Baltimore or to Frankfurt, Germany. Service members must pay for all transportation beyond those gateways.

The discount airline ticket program is designed to reduce the troops' out-of-pocket costs, airline officials said, particularly because most must buy their plane tickets at the last minute, when airlines generally charge higher prices. During the first week of the R&R program, service members received just two to three days notice of their leave, although more notice is expected now that the program is under way.

So far, Delta, American, Southwest and Northwest Airlines are offering discount tickets to eligible troops, and more airlines are expected to extend the offer. To qualify for discounted tickets, service members must book their follow-on flights before leaving Kuwait City International Airport, the outbound gateway airport for the R&R program, explained Monnie Riggin, director of operations and support services for Navigant-SATO Travel.

The Army contracted with SATO Travel to set up a ticketing operation on the edge of the Kuwait airport, explained Dan Yount, chief of Army leisure and travel services. Located at Camp Champion, a tent city that serves as the marshalling point for soldiers leaving on R&R leave, the facility is staffed with ticketing agents to help outbound troops. So far, 80 to 90 percent of the troops require tickets for connecting flights, Riggin said.

She expects that percentage to decrease if the military moves forward with plans to add additional U.S. gateways for R&R flights.

Meanwhile, Riggin cautioned troops not to buy their tickets for connecting flights online. In the event that their flight from Kuwait or Frankfurt is

delayed, these service members could miss their connecting flights, she said, and have no way to get reimbursed for the price of their tickets.

"Buying tickets online is just too risky for this type of travel," she said. "If there's a delay, the ticket is of no value, and there is nothing we can do to help." Today's R&R flight, for example, was scheduled to arrive at BWI airport shortly before noon, but it's now expected at closer to 6 p.m., Yount said.

"I can guarantee that some of those service members are going to miss their connecting flights," he said. "And if they bought their tickets online, they're going to have a problem."

Yount said his office was making arrangements with local hotels to offer discounted rooms and additional amenities for anyone forced to stay overnight in Baltimore because of the flight delay.

"We're trying to make a very unpalatable situation as palatable as we can for the troops," he said.

Riggin said her office is working with one of the participating airlines to extend partial rebates to some of the first returning R&R troops who purchased top-dollar airline tickets before the ticket discounts were introduced. She was

uncertain if other airlines would make the same offer.

The R&R program is proceeding well, officials said, with 270 Operation Iraqi Freedom troops leaving the theater every day for 15 days of R&R leave. The daily flights stop at Frankfurt, but most of the passengers continue on to BWI Airport.

There, many await their connecting flights at the airport's USO facility, which offers free baggage storage, snacks, and sleeping areas. According to Adrienne Trout, director of airport services for the USO of Metropolitan Washington, the facility "has definitely seen a surge" in usage since the first R & R flight arrived at BWI airport Sept. 26.

Trout said the USO gave money to a few cash-strapped service members who arrived at the airport, unable to pay cab fare to get them to other Washington, D.C., area airports for their connecting flights. Learning of this need, the VFW Foundation stepped in, rallying its posts in Maryland and New Jersey to provide drivers and vans to transport R&R troops to Washington Reagan National and Dulles International airports. Cab fares to those

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Beau Whittington

Spc. Adrian Dupree (right) leads the first 192 Soldiers to arrive stateside via Operation Iraqi Freedom "Rest and Recuperation" Leave Program arrived at BWI Airport.

**DISCOUNTS, from page 10**

airports from BWI run about \$37 and \$66, respectively, Trout said.

Mike Meyer, the VFW Foundation's administrator of cooperative development, said the shuttle service is an extension of many services the foundation already provides service members and veterans. "We saw the need and stepped in to see how we could help," he said.

For more information about the R&R program, visit <http://www.offdutytravel.com>.

Operated by the U.S. Army Family Support Center, the site gives details about the R&R program, rates and amenities at Baltimore area hotels, and discounts offered by restaurants and theme parks to R&R troops.

**PACKAGES from page 6**

the address label or package gets damaged. "That way, the package can be rewrapped and sent to the correct address," he said.

To ensure packages arrive safely, DeDomenic suggested using strong, sturdy boxes with lots of wrapping. He said boxes should be packed tightly, using packing materials such as popcorn or newspapers, to keep contents from moving.

He also recommended that senders use good tape, because the humidity in the desert tends to destroy tape's adhesive qualities.

"Masking tape is a definite 'no' when it comes to mailing, and (light-duty transparent tape) is terrible," he said. "Reinforced nylon tape works very well."

It's also important to remember what can't be mailed, DeDomenic said.

Hazardous materials, firearms and flammable liquids are prohibited inside packages. This includes alcoholic beverages

and even some perfumes that may have a high alcohol content, he said.

Also he advises not to install batteries inside the electronic items that require them. "Things tend to get turned on (from jostling during shipping), and that causes security concerns," he said.

Because of security restrictions, mass-mailing operations such as "Operation Dear Abby" or "Any Service Member" cannot be supported by the agency this year using traditional mail, DeDomenic said.

"We ask that the American public use electronic Web sites or send greeting cards via e-mail" as alternatives, he said.

## Cultural society meets to discuss future of Mosul

by Spc. Joshua Hutcheson  
101st Abn. Div. PAO

MOSUL, IRAQ -- Leaders from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) met with members of the Mosul Cultural Society Tuesday at the Mosul Social Club, formerly the Ba'ath party Club.

Brig. Gen. Jeffery Schloesser, assistant division commander, support, and Col. Joe Anderson, commander, 2nd Brigade, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) met with approximately 30 members of the society, a group of Iraqi intellectuals, teachers and engineers that make up a sort of Mosul "brain trust."

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the topics important to the people of the city, such as education, health and engineering. They also addressed reconstruction efforts in the city and surrounding area, and the current level of security provided by coalition forces.

The Mosul Cultural Society was formed with the help of Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, division commander, and meets twice a month to talk about citywide concerns.

# The Judge Says...

## Items of legal interest to soldiers

### Q: Must a power of attorney be accepted?

**A:** A common question is whether or not a person or company must accept a power of attorney (POA). Army legal assistance offices prepare tens of thousands of POAs annually; are they worth the paper they are printed on?

Technically, a POA, which gives someone the right to act on your behalf, does not have to be accepted. It is not a good business practice to refuse them however, because the reason why a POA is used is because the person cannot be there to conduct that business.

When a POA is refused, the most common reason for rejection is that it is considered to be too broad. A general POA, which gives unlimited power, may not show specific intent in the eyes of some banks, creditors, and real estate companies.

To ensure that the person really wants to give that power, some companies require the use of their own POA or language that they have chosen. Fortunately this is the exception rather than the rule, but it happens on occasion.

Anyone who plans to use a POA should contact the institution ahead of time and

*ensure that an existing POA will be accepted.*

### Q: What are the different types of POAs?

**A:** There are three types of POAs: A general POA gives someone unlimited power to act on your behalf. Because it is so broad, it should only be given to a trusted family member or spouse.

A special POA gives authority to conduct a specific task, like selling a car.

A medical POA allows someone to authorize non-emergency medical care for of your child.

### Preventative law tip of the week:

Some classic swindles have been getting a new twist via the Internet. One of them is the "advance fee" scam.

An advance fee scam promises that you will get something of value if you pay an up-front fee. For example, you might get a "free vacation" at a resort timeshare by paying a small amount, perhaps called a "processing fee." Once you pay the fee, you will often be asked to pay another small fee, then another, until you have paid out quite a bit. The "free prize" itself is never awarded.

# Man on the Street

## What do you think of the new schools opening in the Ninevah Province?



“It’s a good step towards the opportunity of good education for our children. When children are given what they need to learn, they want to learn.”

- Nazar Abed Younis,  
CMOC employee



“Before this, the kids didn’t use their time to study. Now that they have all the new books and other things, they will spend their time getting smart.”

- Hashim S. Hashim,  
cleaning supervisor

“It’s a good thing to our future. Kids don’t only need books, they need food, water and fun things to do at school.”

- Hamed Al Jobury



“It’s a new hope for a new generation of Iraqis.”

- Naser Nasser, architect



“They did a very good job with the schools. It will really help the kids.”

- Mohamed Sadam, janitor



“Very good.”

- Evan Saman Batros,  
CMOC employee