IRAQI DESTINY

Volume 1, Issue 46

October 30, 2003

Secrets of ancient empire unlocked by 101st

Bremmer urges understanding during Ramadan

(Editor's Note: The following excerpts are from a letter written by Coalition Provisional Authority Chief Administrator L. Paul Bremmer.)

Ramadan is one of the most holy of Muslim holidays, focusing on sacrifice and prayer. This sacrifice is manifested in almost daily visit to the Mosque and an increase in charitable giving for the poor. Although the exact dates will depend on the lunar calendar, we expect Ramadan will begin on Oct. 25/27 and end on Nov. 24/26.

Ramadan is a period of increased religious observances, fasting and celebrations. The fasting for most citizens begins at daybreak and ends at dark. Even consumption of water, tea or tobacco is forbidden during daylight hours.

The fasting is followed by night-long dining celebrations ("Iftars") with the last meal ("Suhour") just before dawn.

This makes Coalition respect for and understanding of the importance and holiness of this first Ramadan for free Iraqis essential.

I ask all of you to show the Iraqi people an extra degree of respect and support during the month of Ramadan.

Funeral procession for MPs an emotional experience

(Editor's Note: This account was submitted by R.U. Joslin, secretary of the Rakkasan Association.)

Lt. Col. Kim Orlando was laid to rest Friday where he had told his wife he always wanted to be buried ... among the rows and rows of soldiers interred at the Veterans National Cemetery in Nashville, Tenn.

In typical 101st Airborne Division fashion, the "Screaming Eagles" pulled out all the plugs to honor a great soldier, leader, husband and 43-year-old father of two.

I was present for this outstanding American's memorial ceremony at Fort Campbell Ky., and burial in Nashville.

What happened on the approximately fifty-mile funeral procession from Fort Campbell to the cemetery is something I want to share with everyone, and something I'll never forget. I wish everyone who wears a uniform, or has ever worn a uniform, could have seen this. Thanks to the chiefs of police and Sheriffs Association, several law enforcement agencies quickly volunteered to assist with the funeral as it would proceed down I-24 South to metropolitan Nashville. Two other great military police noncommissioned officers, Staff Sgt. Joseph P. Bellavia and Sgt. Sean R. Grilley died in the firefight with their commander. Bellavia has a brother on the Hendersonville, Ky., police department.

In an effort to alert motorists and share the information with more local law enforcement, the plan was apparently announced via the computer system for general knowledge of police and emergency responders. I haven't seen as many fire department, police, sheriff, state troopercars and motorcycles since the Watts riots. The show of support for our fallen soldiers was overwhelming. And it was a good thing, since the procession was at least two miles long. But the story doesn't end here. Kay and I were in the back of the procession on I-24 watching the myriad lightshow disappear forward over the horizon southbound. A news helicopter was paralleling the convoy. Then we noticed the first exit/on ramp was blocked with a law enforcement vehicle, driver standing outside and saluting as the vehicles passed. What a class act and great show of support. But then, the next ramp had a similar sight...and the next, and the next. And there werefire, EMT vehicles and emergency responders of all sorts.

Lights flashing,people standing outside, lined up, with headgear removed or saluting. The Kentucky troopers and law enforcement stopped at the state line, and Tennessee showed how much their native son's sacrifice meant to them.

More vehicles were on the overpasses, waving American flags, displaying the POW/MIA flag. These were units from small towns along the route, coming out to the interstate to show their support to a fallen soldier who was at the tip of the spear in the GWOT.

To them, he and his troops had gone after the people who had inflicted such tremendous losses on our police, firemen, EMTs and civilians in Pennsylvania, the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. It went on and on...it was about an hour drive. Then, we saw a sight that knocked our socks off.

In the distance we could see two large hook and ladder type firetrucks on an overpass, literally spanning the southboundlanes. One had the ladder extended straight up...and waving in the wind from it as the hearse and procession went under was an American flag that had to measure at least 30 feet by 50 feet. Enough said....that message was loud and clear.

A big "thank you" to each and every one of them for their show of support to our soldiers and the armed forces of this nation. One team, one fight.

In loving memory, respect and eternal gratitude for their devotion to duty and ultimate sacrifice to their country: Lt. Col. Kim S.Orlando, Staff Sgt. Joseph P. Bellavia, Sgt. Sean R. Grilley. National treasures ofthe United States; soldiers that saw their duty and did it.

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Iraqi history is open for business

Spc. Blake Kent

Through the work of soldiers of 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Divsion (Air Assault), the Al Hatra ruins are now open for visitors to find out more about the history of Iraq. The ruins have tour guides on duty, and is also open for archeological study.

Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

A piece of history has been made available again to the world in Al Hatra, Iraq, where ruins of a Hetron civilization have opened again to tourists and archeologists.

The ruins are from around 150 B.C., and collapsed in 241 A.D.

The site is thought to have been an early religious center for the region.

Securing the ruins was a major concern for the Coalition forces as they came into Iraq in March.

"This was automatically a major priority to secure these ruins," said 1st Lt. Elijah Ward of Greenville, Va., 2nd Battalion, 320th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). "To see these destroyed would be a major loss for the archeological community."

The ruins did see some looting though during the war.

"We started with safe-guarding the site, then our soldiers started giving the tours of the site," Ward said. "They learned as much about this site as the tour guides know."

The site is currently secured by the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, and local tour guides have been hired to help with the site.

"The ruins have become cleaner, and a better place to study the history of this region," said Col. Ben Hodges, commander, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne.

The former regime began "repairs" to the site in 1990, with the rebuilding of the city's façade with bricks marked with Saddam Hussein's name, said Ikhlas Dinkha, a tour guide for the ruins.

Repairs ended after the start of the first Gulf War.

According to Dinkha, the site has been shut off from the archeological world for a number of years, but archeologists had studied the area starting about 190 years ago.

"During Saddam's time there was no tourism in the area," said Dinkha.

The ruins hold interest for archeologists and historians.

The site's curator is currently working on sparking interest from the world's archeological community.

"There were 171 towers, many are underground, and there were open alters for offerings to the king," said Dinkha of some of the known mysteries of the ruins waiting to be uncovered.

According to Dinkha, more than 70 percent of the ruins are under ground. Excavations are planned for the future.

While interest in the site is still growing, the nearby village is preparing for tourists.

"It will be a very charming place for tourists and archeologists," Dinkha said.

First Iran border control point opened

By Spc. Joshua Hutcheson
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A ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 23 marked the opening of the first of 11 official Iran border checkpoints to be manned by the Iraqi Border Police.

The Tootman control point took two months to complete and is located in the Tootman valley, which is part of the Penjwin Region in the As Sulayimaniyah province. It was chosen as a control point because of its proximity to a barter town three kilometers down the road in Iraq.

The control point consists of two buildings for sleeping, one for women and the other for men, and a communications area to keep the police in touch with other checkpoints and the U.S. military.

Rather than being a customs center for a highway leading into the country, the buildings serve as a headquarters for the border guards who police the entire valley. Besides manning the roads, the border police set up roving checkpoints and nightly ambushes to catch people crossing the border illegally.

There are dozens of roads and trails that lead into the country and the border police have to stay on top of every one of them, said Sgt. David Pool, assistant team leader, Long Range Surveillance Detachment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

The Iraqi Border Police are responsible for checking the papers of all drivers and searching all incoming vehicles. Vehicles range from large tractor-trailers to donkey with loads on their backs or pulling carts, said Sgt. 1st Class Adam Dobson, operations noncommissioned officer, LRS-D.

Spc. Joshua Hutcheson

Gen. Mustafa Jaffer, commanding general of the Peshmerga, cuts the ribbon signifying the opening of the Tootman border control point, while Lt. Col. Kristin Shafer, commander, 311th Military Intelligence Battalion, looks on. The Tootman control point is the first of 11 checkpoints to open along the Iran border. It is manned by former Kurdish soldiers.

Spc. Joshua Hutcheson

A member of the Iraqi Border Police watches the Tootman valley at the Iran border. The valley is often used by smugglers trying to sell items at a trade town three kilometers down the road.

"We get 300 vehicles a day around this area," Pool said.

During their searches, the police usually detain five to 10 people a day, for attempting to smuggle goods into the country to sell at the nearby trading town, or for not having the proper paperwork. Most people are just turned back to Iran, Pool said.

Currently, 24 police work the Tootman control point; another 20 will join them once they finish their training, Pool said.

The soldiers of LRS-D train the Iraqi Border police in search techniques.

Since June the 101st soldiers have trained 800 border police in a six-day course that includes vehicle and personnel searches, first aid, weapons handling, raids, communication, close quarters battle, ambushes and movement techniques, Dobson said.

Most of the Kurdish police force is ex-Peshmerga soldiers. Since they have basic military skills already, the American soldiers only had to augment their knowledge, Pool said.

"These guys have more combat experience then anyone in the United States," Dobson said.

The former Kurdish soldiers make ideal border police because of their knowledge of the area. They've lived in the hills and mountains in the Penjwin region their whole lives and know the lay of the land better then the 101st soldiers, Dobson said.

The ribbon was cut by Gen. Mustafa Jaffer, commanding general of the Peshmerga, and Lt. Col. Kristin Shafer, commander, 311th Military Intelligence Battalion.

The other 10 check points along the Iran border are scheduled to open as soon as money is provided to finish construction of the control point buildings, Dobson said.

So far, the check points have been up unofficially for the last three months, but without sleep and communication areas, the border police have been forced to sleep in tents, caves and under bushes, and their morale has been low, Dobson said.

The money to construct the buildings came from the 101st Commander's Emergency Relief Program Fund.

Artillerymen pay tribute to slain NCO

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

On Oct. 5, Sgt. Michael S. Hancock reported to the Battery C, 1-320th Field Artillery Regiment, in Mosul, Iraq, where he would begin his new assignment with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Hancock was in his tenth year in the Army and, along with his wife Jeannie, and children Amber, Jamie, Ashley, and Christopher, was entering his second tour with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky.

His section leader would be Sgt. Joshua Forbess; the two hit it off immediately.

"My section had just got back from a patrol, my platoon sergeant told me I had a new NCO (non-commissioned officer)," Forbess recalled. "Shortly after that we had to go out on another patrol and he was rolling with us."

Forbess lost his friend Oct. 24, just 19 days after Hancock reported to his new unit. Hancock was on a patrol in Mosul when he and a group of soldiers engaged gang of looters. Forbess was at a nearby position when he heard the gunshots.

"We heard the gunfire, the guard force was out there, and I reacted to it. We approached the place where the gunfire was coming from, and that's where we found him."

Tuesday at Hancock's memorial ceremony, Forbess stood in front of several hundred 101st Airborne Division soldiers, including Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, the division's commanding general, and praised the friend he knew for such a short time.

"On 24 October, 2003, I lost a soldier, a peer, a comrade, a friend and a brother. I know you (Hancock) are with the angels right now, trying to break that 10-minute two-mile barrier," Forbess said.

Pfc. Thomas Day

Fellow soldiers from 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery pay final respects at a memorial service for Sgt. Michael S. Hancock, Battery C, who died in the line of duty Oct. 24

Every one of Hancock's soldiers, peers, and commanders identified him as an avid and voracious runner.

First Sgt. Mathew Nagel, C Battery first sergeant, knew Hancock from his tour at Fort Stewart, Ga. Hancock was only a specialist at that point but exhibited the promise of a soldier destined for greatness, especially at physical training.

"His battery was taking an APFT (Army Physical Fitness Test). It was a large battery, so the command decided they would split up the APFT into two days - Michael's day was chosen to be the first. At the end of that day, when he had taken that PT test, when the results were tallied up, Michael scored an impressive 299 (out of 300).

"Being the caliber soldier that Michael was, he decided he hadn't done his best. So the very next day he retook that PT test with the other half of his battery and this time he scored a 300," Nagel said.

Hancock was given a full, traditional military memorial ceremony complete with a 21-gun salute and ceremonial role-call, conducted by Nagel.

"Your family loves you, your battery loves you, your section loves you," Forbess told his departed friend, "and I love you. I'll see you on the high ground."

Memorial remembers sacrifice of fallen ICDC soldier

By Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

Soldiers of the 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and soldiers of from Company B, Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, held memorial services for Pfc. Borakat Hajee Ali of B Co., ICDC, on Oct. 27.

Ali was killed Oct. 23 during a mounted patrol along the products pipeline near Qayyarah, Iraq, when an anti-tank mine exploded under his vehicle.

"He was a great sample of courage and bravery, and always eager to perform his duties," said Sgt. Farris Abdu Gabeer, B Co., ICDC, of Ali.

The mine is suspected to have been set by other Iraqis.

Seven other ICDC soldiers were injured during the incident. Six are still in a Mosul hospital receiving care. One has been released.

The ICDC company augments soldiers of the 327th Inf. Reg. in securing the two pipelines in the area, as well as the Tiger South ASP.

Spc. Blake Kent

Soldiers of Company B, Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, and from 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), remembered Pfc. Borakat Hajee Ali, Co. B, ICDC, at a memorial ceremony Oct. 27. Borakat Hajee Ali died after his vehicle struck a mine on Oct. 23.

Nebraska principal, Guardsman works to improve Iraqi school system

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

The winds of change blew awfully hard for one 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) reservist this past winter.

Last February, Sgt. First Class Michael Hart of Lincoln, Neb., was given deployment orders with his Nebraska National Guard unit, the 41st Rear Area Operations Center. A month later, Hart left his wife Sharon and two kids, Austin, 6, and Brandon, 2. He also left hundreds of other kids he cares for five days a week: his students at the Norfolk Junior High School in Norfolk, Neb.

Hart has been an assistant principle at the junior high for two years, after spending nine years as an English teacher. Now, the University of Nebraska alum is getting the chance to work with kids all over again. Hart's 41st RAOC has overseen a number of school projects in Northern Iraq under the command of Col. Gerald Dolinish, of the 101st Corps Support Group.

"It's a lifestyle. Everywhere I go I try to be around kids because I love what they're about." Hart said. "When I'm teaching, just to see a light bulb go off in a kid's head – 'Oh, I got it' – that makes my day…That's why I do what I do back home. It's not just for the money.

"Once we moved in with the CSG (last April), once these missions became available, I was really excited about it," he added. "To me, it's exciting because we get to go out and we get to touch kid's lives."

The 41st RAOC has been tasked for the last several months of contracting local construction companies to rebuild schools ruined by years of neglect by Saddam Hussein's regime. Their families back in Nebraska have even got involved, donating notebooks, pens, pencils, markers, and other school supplies.

With the students of Iraq's schools back in class since Oct. 1, Hart has already seen an apparent turnaround.

"What I do find encouraging is kids are back in school. What I do find encouraging is teachers are getting paid. What I do find encouraging is a lot of schools do have supplies," he said. "The local system here was controlled by the Ba'ath Party and all emphasis was on praising Saddam. Since we've shown up, I think we've done an adequate job of flushing that material out."

Hart says he misses his students and his school in Nebraska and does not expect to be home before the end of the year. Of course, the teacher in Hart hasn't gone anywhere just because he's wearing Desert Camouflage Uniforms and not a shirt and tie.

"Education is the cornerstone to any community. If you have an educated public, if you have people who can think for themselves, you're going to be okay.

"You've got to teach the kids that…it's not only the teachers school, it's my school and if some kid's messing with it or writing on it, that affects me."

Hart has served 18 and a half years with the Nebraska National Guard and will likely head for retirement shortly after he returns home from Iraq. He enlisted in the Guard after high school as "a good way to pay for college" and has stayed in since, even through graduate school at the tiny Doane College in Southeast Nebraska.

By Pfc. Thomas Day

Sgt. First Class Michael Hart of Lincoln, Neb., 41st Rear Area Operations Center (Nebraska National Guard), helps a couple of local youths color a coloring book. The coloring books, markers, and other school supplies were donated by the families of the 41st RAOC.

IED awareness made priority for soldiers in Iraq

Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

With more than 415 wounded and 29 personnel killed by Improvised Explosive Devices according to recent statistics, Coalition forces aren't taking any chances when it comes to training soldiers to handle this threat.

"There are approximately 600,000 tons of ordinance out on the ground throughout the country, and the enemy is getting smarter every single day on how to use it," said Maj. Adam Boyd, 1138th Mine, Explosive, and Ordinance Information Coordination Center.

Soldiers may encounter a number of different forms of IEDs, such as disguised static IEDs, disguised-moveable IEDs, improvised grenades, and IEDs placed in, on or under a target.

Attacks on vehicles are the most prevalent form of attack.

According to Staff Sgt. Jon Kibbler of St. Louis, Ms., 1138th MEOICC, the enemy is targeting vehicles at intersections and round-abouts, on and under bridges and overpasses, on verges and breaks in the median strips, when passing through defiles, and on the open highways.

The enemy is also employing multiple IEDs in a daisy-chain fashion, targeting ground forces and fixed installations (including VCPs), employing 'come on' tactics, which are items that attract personnel into the kill zone, and secondary IEDs, Kibbler said.

According to Kibbler, complacency is one of the worst enemies for the Coalition forces.

"It isn't the soldiers that are just coming into theatre that are getting hurt," said Kibbler. "It's the guys that have been here for a year that are getting complacent."

There are things soldiers can do to help make themselves less of a target for IEDs, Kibbler said, and help prepare themselves for encounters with IEDs.

Altering routes, times and commonly witnessed procedures can make it more difficult for the enemy to pick a target.

Soldiers should have clearly understood and well rehearsed "Actions On" procedures, and always be on the look out for suspicious activity and indicators of possible IEDs. Soldiers should also be sure to maintain regular communication.

When soldiers do come across an IED, they should confirm what they see, evacuate the area, secure the site and maintain control of the area until EOD arrives.

Soldiers should also place a nine line Explosive Ordnance Disposal report, which will help inform the EOD team of the situation.

Kibbler warned soldiers to be at least 100 meters away from unexploded ordnance when transmitting over a radio as some IEDs can be set off by radio frequencies, and by no means shoot at the IED.

"The two biggest things that are going to help you an IED situation is vigilance and communication," he said.

To find out more about IED awareness, soldiers can contact the MEOICC by calling DNVT 580-2820.

101st Corps Support Group reopens Tall Kayf girls secondary school

TALL KAYF, IRAQ - The Tall Kayf Secondary School for Girls reopened Thursday after the completion of a $13,000 renovation project, courtesy of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Commander's Emergency Relief Program.

The 101st Airborne Division's Command Support Group, under commander Col. Gerald Dolinish, supported the effort.

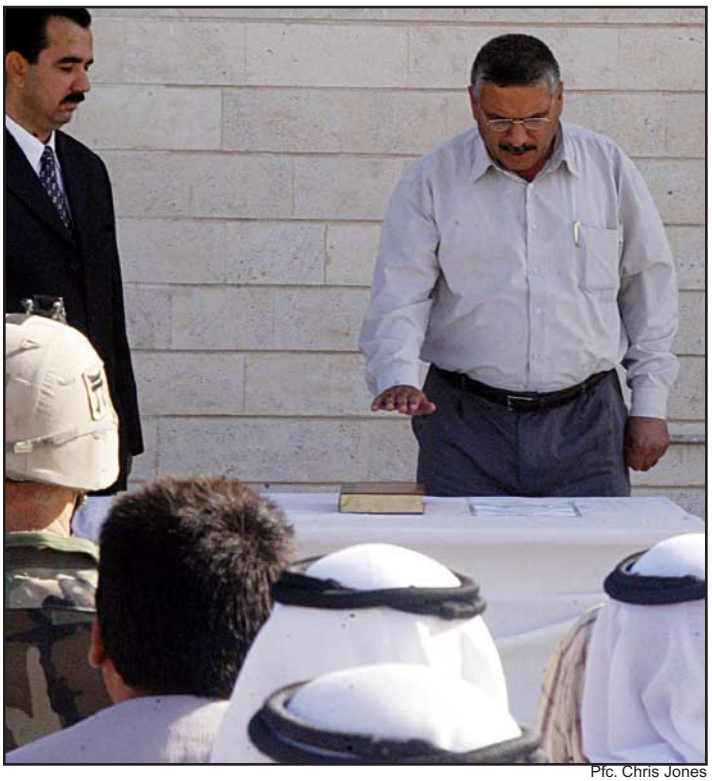
The all-girls school had been left in ruins after years of neglect under Saddam Hussein's regime. The rebuilding project fixed defective wiring and faulty plumbing, painted walls and installed windows where there previously had been none.

Tall Kayf is a predominantly Christian town 10 miles outside of Mosul.

Pfc. Thomas Day

The young women of the Tall Kayf Secondary School for Girls celebrate the reopening of their school after a 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) $13,000 reconstruction project.

First democratic elections begin in Iraq



Pfc. Chris Jones

One of the six members of the new Tallafar city council swears in to office. The Tallafar election was one of only three fully democratic elections that have been held in Iraq, along with Sinjar and Avgani

By Pfc. Chris Jones
40th PAD

TALLAFAR, Iraq -- Members of the recently-elected Tallafar city council were swore into office Saturday morning after one of only three truly democratic elections in history of Iraq.

The previous voting method used by Coalition Forces in Iraq was a stepping stone toward democracy. Authorities would select a panel of nominees beforehand, then the nominees would vote amongst themselves. These selections offered a hint of democracy, and between Oct. 15 and Oct. 22 the 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) teamed with Iraqi citizens to conduct the first democratic elections ever held in Iraq since Coalition forces have been in the country. The cities of Tallafar, Zumar and Al-Eyaldia now have the first uncensored city councils in the country, according to 187th commander Col. Michael Linnington.

"These were the first freely democratic elections in all of Iraq," said Linnington. "All other elections were done as selections where Coalition forces would elect the nominees in advance. The elections in Zumar and Al-Eyaldia were examples of true democracy. Voting booths were set up all over the cities and manned by Iraqis and Americans."

Linnington and other members of the 187th met with elected councilmen from Zumar and Al-Eyaldia Friday afternoon to discuss initial difficulties following the elections. Khalid Abdo, a Zumar councilmen and reporter for the Tallafar Today newsletter, said many of his fellow coun

see ELECTIONS, page 10

First children's clinic north of Mosul opens

Pfc. Chris Jones
40th PAD

SINJAR, Iraq - More than 100 parents and sick children waited outside the Sinjar General Hospital Thursday morning, anxiously awaiting the opening of the first children's clinic north of Mosul to open its doors and receive them.

Medics from 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), oversaw construction efforts by local contractors of the Sinjar Clinic for Children. The facility, which will fall under the hospital's supervision, became the first exclusively pediatric health care center in the 187th's area of operations with its grand opening ceremony Thursday. The only other children's clinic in Northern Iraq is in Mosul, said Capt. Eli Lozano, brigade combat health support officer.

"This is the primary reason the Americans and Coalition Forces came to Iraq," said Lt. Col. Henry Arnold, commander, 2nd Bn. "One of the main reasons we came was to ensure that everyone in the country has good medical care."

The new clinic compounds with the Ministry of Health law that all children under the age of 12 receive free medical care in any clinic in Iraq to greatly lighten the load for parents with sick children in the Ninevah Province, said Dr. Yousif Akajoj, hospital internist. The Sinjar hospital already had a staff of pediatricians and a children's ward, but the new clinic will offer an atmosphere more suitable for children. From toys and games to the upbeat pediatricians, the clinic will focus on offering a positive haven for children, Akajoj said.

One of the biggest problems at the hospital was the lack of beds for children, Akojoj said.

"We have shortages of beds, so we have an obligation to discharge children as soon as they are well," he said. "The lack of space was always our main problem. Sometimes, when we have a lot of children needing care, we have to discharge the ones who are less sick than others, even if they aren't fully healed.

"We needed this new clinic. It will very much help keep children feeling well, so they can do what they need to - go to school.

Pfc. Chris Jones

A mother holds her underdeveloped infant while waiting for treatment during the opening of the Sinjar General Hospital's childcare center, the first clinic north of Mosul dedicated solely to children.

Badush hospital re-opens

2-44 ADA takes small steps in reconstruction of healthcare facility

Spc. Mary Rose Xenikakis
22nd MPAD

BADUSH, Iraq -- Towns people of Badush and its surrounding area can celebrate for the chance at better health care in Iraq after the Badush Hospital re-opened Oct. 22.

Local hires and soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment have worked hard for the past six weeks to re-open the hospital. The project was funded through Commander's Emergency Relief Program funds with an allowance of $50,000 from Brig. Gen. Jeffery J. Schloesser, assistant division commander for support, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

The re-opening started with a ribbon cutting at the entranceway of the hospital and then cake. Before the cake was cut Lt. Col. Donald G. Fryc, commander, 2-44 ADA, commented to the crowd around the table, "If we work together anything can happen."

Spc. Mary Rose Xenikakis

Handshakes and smiles filled the Badush Hospital Oct. 22, at the re-opening of the only hospital in the town. Lt. Col. Donald G. Fryc, commander, 2-44 ADA, and Mohamed Noori Sieed, a general practitioner at the Badush Hospital greet each other before the festivities of the re-opening. The towns people of Badush and its surrounding villages can now recieve health care.

"It cost $38,000 just for the reconstruction of the building," said Chief Warrant 4 Mark Bowes, project manager, 2-44 ADA. "The other $12,000 was used for supplies, like tables and medicines."

The hospital not only serves the 8,000 people who live in the town of Badush, but it also serves the outlying 25 villages. The hospital, which is a primary health care center, sees approximately 120 patients a day.

"The Badush Hospital was originally a maternal and child care center," said Mohamed Noori Sieed, general practitioner at Badush Hospital.

He added that the hospital also holds lectures on preventative medicine, hygiene, vaccinations and proper care of infants for mothers. The hospital has 35 employees, which include four medical practitioners and three dentists. "Most of our work here is preventative," Sieed said.

The hospital relies on the Mosul emergency hospitals for any surgical or emergency procedures. "If we have an emergency we send them in an ambulance to Mosul for care," Sieed said.

With a refurbished building and new equipment the hospital has a new start in helping the local people get quality health care.

The 2-44 ADA has been working in Badush for some time now.

Badush recently celebrated the re-opening of its local school with the help from soldiers in the 2-44 ADA. The town has currently re-opened its prison, being the first prison in Northern Iraq to open.

"We're making small steps everyday," Fryc said. "I think the Badush community is a real success story."

Iraqi firefighters demonstrate heroism on Fire Base Glory

MOSUL, Iraq (Oct. 29, 2003) – A quick response by Iraqi firefighters on Fire Base Glory helped ensure the safety of soldiers here as well as save government equipment after an Army front-end loader struck an unseen land mine on post.

Spc. Curtis Lee Cashion, 877th Engineer Battalion, from Hamilton, Ala., was driving the loader at the time of the explosion. The ball of fire engulfed the front scoop and hydraulic system, and Cashion immediately jumped out of the vehicle and moved to safety.

1st. Lt. Jason Sayre, mayor staff officer-in-charge of Fire Base Glory, saw the explosion through his office window and immediately called the fire team into action.

Within three minutes, the three-man Iraqi team had sprung into action and extinguished the fire.

"I looked up and saw a fire engine putting out the fire, I couldn't believe how fast they got here," Cashion said. "They definitely earned my respect today."

The men, David Salim Mahmoud, Ausama Amed Ali and Mahmoud Younis Mahiob, were recommended for the Commanding General's "Hero Program," and were commended by 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Commander Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus in a ceremony today. Fire Base Glory is near the Mosul Airfield, home to the 101st Airborne Division rear command post and various other units.

(Editor's Note: Compiled from reports by Maj. Bruce Coyne, deputy mayor, Fire Base Glory.)

Courtesy Photo

Spc. Curtis Cashion stands with Iraqi firefighters David Salim Mahmoud, Ausama Amed Ali and Mahmoud Younis Mahiob, in front of the damaged front-end loader.

Delta's 'SkyMiles for Heroes' Support's U.S. Military Rest & Relaxation Program

Delta Airlines SkyMiles members can donate miles to personnel visitng home; airline gives 10 million miles to kick off campaign

(Courtesy Delta Air Lines) -- SkyMiles members may donate miles to support the United States military's Operation Iraqi Freedom Rest and Relaxation (R&R) program, beginning Thursday, Oct. 23.

Military personnel will use donated miles when returning home between Nov. 1, 2003 and Sept. 30, 2004.

"This is one way for Delta to thank the men and women who are serving our country," said Rob Borden, Delta's SkyMiles program director. "By partnering with our SkyMiles members, we can make a larger impact and ultimately assist more military personnel."

Delta will contribute 10 million miles to the SkyWish "SkyMiles for Heroes" account to initiate the campaign. Miles donated by SkyMiles members will be added to this account. Miles contributed to this program cannot be designated for specific personnel. Active duty members of the U.S. armed forces stationed in Iraq will be selected by the Combined Forces Land Component Commander to receive round-trip award tickets once a month.

The SkyMiles donated will be exchanged for round-trip tickets for travel between Baltimore-Washington International Airport and destinations in the United States, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. As part of the R&R program, the government flies members of the military to Baltimore, andpersonnel are responsible for any additional domestic travel needed to reach their hometown.

As of Oct. 23, SkyMiles members may donate miles to the SkyMiles for Heroes campaign via Delta's SkyWish program through Aug. 15, 2004. There is a 5,000-mile minimum donation. Donations can be made via e-mail at delta.bids@delta.com or fax at 404-773-1945. Donations can also be made via the U.S. Postal Service to: Delta Air Lines Inc., SkyMiles Service Center, Dept. 654, P.O. Box 20532, Atlanta, Ga. 30320-2532. SkyMiles members should include their SkyMiles account number, the amount of miles to be donated and note "SkyWish SkyMiles for Heroes" as their charity of choice. SkyWish donations are not tax deductible for Delta Air Lines or SkyMiles members.

Delta SkyMiles members earn miles by flying Delta, Song, Delta Shuttle, Delta Connection, and Delta's worldwide partners, including the airline's SkyTeam partners. The program offers additional mileage-building opportunities through SkyMiles partners such as the Delta SkyMiles(R) Credit Card from American Express, AT&T telecommunication services, EarthLink(TM) Internet services, participating hotels, car rental companies, restaurants, floral purchases and financial, mortgage and realty services. SkyMiles may be redeemed for upgrades, Crown Room Club memberships and Award Travel to more than 400 worldwide destinations.

Delta Air Lines, the world's second largest airline in terms of passengers carried and the leading U.S. carrier across the Atlantic, offers 5,883 flights each day to 447 destinations in 81 countries on Delta, Song, Delta Express, Delta Shuttle, Delta Connection and Delta's worldwide partners. Delta is a founding member of SkyTeam, a global airline alliance that provides customers with extensive worldwide destinations, flights and services. For more information, please go to delta.com.

Terms and Conditions: Award tickets may be redeemed for round-trip coach travel valid on published routings from BWI to the 48 contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

A portion of travel for some itineraries may be on the Delta Connection carriers: Atlantic Coast Airlines, Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Chautauqua, Comair and SkyWest; or codeshare partner American Eagle.

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cilmen are still unclear on the notion of democracy.

"I am educated," Abdo said, "and I know what democracy is. Many other councilmen know only dictatorship. It is not easy to teach independence when nobody here has lived it."

In the few days Abdo and his fellow councilmen have discussed the needs of their city: education has been the major focus.

"Of course, all schools still need repairing, because the former regime let schools go to waste," Abdo said. "But the really bad thing Saddam's government did to schools was force them to support his ideals. Every day, schools all over Iraq would be forced to make their children stand up and say, "long live, Saddam. Now, they do it out of habit and the children get embarrassed when we tell them, 'you don't have to do this anymore'."

"There are big problems with schools. Right now, there are 119 University of Mosul students who live in Avgani. The university doesn't have rooms to live in, so the students are forced to go back and forth every day, or they have to pay for a hotel. Who has the money to pay for a hotel every day?"

Six men comprise the city council for Tallafar, while the Zumar and Al-Eyaldia councils have 21 each. Because of this, in early November this number is expected to be reduced to match Tallafar's six, which Abdo said will dishearten many of the councilmen.

"It's unfortunate that many of the candidates who just won a seat will have to give it up," said Abdo, who will keep his seat past November.

"It will really dishearten the council members, because they have such pride for being on the council now. The Coalition should have done this before the elections, not now," he added.

The reduction of seats stands as just one of the difficulties in instigating democracy in Iraq. Maj. John Calahan, operations officer, 1st Bn., 187th Inf. Regt., said democracy remains highly misunderstood among recently-elected council members.

On-post families must sign privatization paperwork

By Staff Sgt. Mark Swart
40th PAD NCOIC

Soldiers living in Fort Campbell's Army Family Housing have until Dec. 1 to sign legal documents that will begin the privatization of all housing on post.

At that time, Actus Lend Lease will become responsible for construction, management, renovation and maintenance of the on-post housing for the next 50 years.

So far, the process is going smoothly, according to Maj. David Crawford, the chief administrative law attorney for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). He added that soldiers on this end living in or on the waiting list for housing need to see their unit personnel sections or Staff Judge Advocate to ensure that the paperwork is taken care of.

"A lot of the time the soldiers are very busy," Crawford said, "but we need them to comply with the requirements."

The paperwork puts soldiers into a lease with Actus Lend Lease, start a soldier's Basic Allowance for Housing at the "with dependents" rate, and allots this money directly to Actus to cover monthly rent and utilities.

Homes will be allotted a certain amount for utilities, based on the average historical power consumption in family housing areas. However, if a home exceeds the average consumption for the month, they will be billed for the excess power usage.

The changes also affect families on the waiting list for housing: soldiers currently on the list must sign a special power of attorney to authorize their spouse to execute the lease and allotment if they wish to remain on the list for family housing.

This will allow spouses to move in as housing becomes available.

There are also several other details that soldiers should be aware of:

For dual military couples, only the senior member will sign the allotment. The allotment will become effective on the closing date.

The service member will start receiving BAH at the with dependents rate on or about Jan. 1, 2004. This transaction will neither generate income for the soldier nor impose tax liability on the soldier. It will simply transfer the soldier's BAH to the private contractor.

Soldiers may obtain more information about the Residential Communities Initiative from Fort Campbell web page, www.campbell.army.mil, by clicking on the "Frequently Asked Questions" link. For questions or more information, call DNVT 581-0975.

The Judge Says...

Items of legal interest to soldiers

Q: What is bankruptcy? Will it help me or hurt my credit?

A: *Bankruptcy is legal protection from your creditors.*

Normally, a contract defines the duties and responsibilities between a borrower and a lender. Bankruptcy, however, can require a lender to accept a lower payment or eliminate the debt entirely.

Two different types of bankruptcy are available to individuals. The first is Chapter 7, often called a "straight" bankruptcy. Under Chapter 7, all nonexempt assets are applied to all debts, and the debts are eliminated. For example, $5,000 in assets might be applied to $30,000 in debts, and the other $25,000 is cancelled.

The second is Chapter 13, often called a "reorganization" bankruptcy. Under Chapter 13, the court approves a 3-5 year repayment plan which the creditors must accept. Some people claim Chapter 13 is less damaging to your credit than Chapter 7, because debts are repaid and not discharged.

Bankruptcy can be expensive though, and not all debts can be discharged (such as child support arrearages). Consult with an attorney if you are having difficulty paying your bills and you think bankruptcy is an option.

Q: Can I be punished for bankruptcy?

A: *Soldiers are required by AR 600-15 to pay their just debts, and can be punished under Article 134, UCMJ, for dishonorably failing to pay a debt.*

Soldiers cannot be punished for filing for bankruptcy, however. Bankruptcy is a perfectly legal proceeding, and soldiers cannot be prosecuted for seeking protection from their creditors.

Preventive law tip of the week:

Don't borrow more than you can repay.

That sounds like common sense advice, but aside from extraordinary circumstances, bankruptcy only becomes a consideration when you have borrowed beyond your ability to repay.

So when it comes to consumer debt, avoid the temptation to take on a new line of credit or carry a large balance on an account. Some purchases such as houses or vehicles virtually require buying on credit, so reduce your borrowing elsewhere.

Combined health clinic and school open in Al Buear village

AL BUEAR, Iraq – A health clinic and school, located side-by-side in the small village of Al Buear, opened Oct. 23 after a combined $60,000 was spent to bring the two facilities to life.

The health clinic and school will serve the Jabur tribe whose home spans much of a 400-500 square-mile area west of Mosul.

The project was funded by the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Commander's Emergency Relief Program, under Col. Gerald Dolinish, 101st Command Support Group commander. The health clinic was built from the ground-up with $49,000 in Coalition support. The previously existing school received $11,000 worth of renovations.

Previously, no such health facility existed in the area. The project should effectively alleviate concerns by local villagers and Jabur tribesmen that their sick cannot receive adequate healthcare.

Man on the Street

What are you going to do when you get home?

"Probably gonna go on a cruise... I'm trying to get to Jamaica."

- Spc. Fallon Lavender, HHC, 801st MSB

"Spend time with my newborn son. He ws born while I was over here, 21st of June."

- Spc. Sed Williams, HHC, 801st MSB

"Check my bank account."

- Capt. Edward Sleeper, HHC, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT)

"I'm taking my children to Disneyland."

- Sgt. John Gainey, HHC, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT)

"Go to sleep. We've got guard duty four on, eight off, so for the first couple days I'll be sleeping."

- Sgt. Joaquin Deleon, 3rd Bn., 320th Field Artillery Regt.

"I really don't know. I got so many things I don't even know what I'm gonna do first."

- Pfc. Brandon McLaurn, HHC, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT)