

IRAQI DESTINY



Volume 1, Issue 47

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Ready

for the

Heat

*Soldiers train Iraqi
firefighters in Mosul*

Virginia museum hosts "Gathering of Eagles"

Museum showcases 115 working pieces of military armor

By Philip Schreier
Special to the *Iraqi Destiny*

NOKESVILLE, Va. - Saturday, Oct. 25 was a warm and sunny day in the midlands of Northern Virginia where the Virginia Museum of Military Vehicles hosted its annual open house event.

Nearly 600 visitors roamed around the lush green fields inspecting many of the museum's 115 working pieces of military armor and listened attentively as Screaming Eagle veterans of past and present conflicts recalled some of the historic events in which they personally participated.

Highlighted guests included two members of the 101st Division's Easy Company, of the famed 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, the unit made famous by Stephen Ambrose's 1992 best selling book *Band of Brothers* (and subsequently a 10-hour HBO movie) as well as two 101st battalion commanders recently returned from Iraq.

Sgt. Darrell "Shifty" Powers and Cpl. Forrest Guth (Co. E, 506th PIR) both spoke of the D-Day airborne jump into Normandy on June 6, 1944 as well as the fierce fighting they witnessed in Holland, Haganeau and Bastogne.

Reflections on spending Christmas in Belgium and var-

ious souvenirs they continue to treasure made for an interesting question and answer session following their initial presentations.

Former modern-day battalion commanders, Lt. Col. Christopher Hughes (2nd Bn, 327th Inf.) and Lt. Col. Lee Fetterman (3rd Bn., 187th Inf.) then spoke of their units involvement in the attacks on An Najaf and southern Baghdad, respec-

tively.

Both officers praised the courage and discipline of their men in combat and expressed their heartfelt desire to rejoin units that they most recently rotated out of, following their traditional two-year tours as commanders.

Currently they are both working at the Pentagon.

The formal scheduled presentations drew to a close follow-

ing a small ceremony at the museum's impressive flagpole.

Each of the four guests were given a small handful of soil or sand from battlefields where they had fought, and together they mixed it with the soil at the base of the flag pole. SGT Powers and CPL Guth passed on their good wishes to those currently serving in Iraq by saying, "Hang Tough", a traditional 506th salutation.



Bill Vanderpool

Screaming Eagles from past and present took part in the "Gathering of Eagles," which showcased 115 working pieces of military armor. From left to right, Lt. Col. Christopher Hughes, 2nd Bn, 327th Inf., Cpl. Forrest Guth, Co. E, 506th PIR, Lt. Col. Lee Fetterman, 3rd Bn., 187th Inf. and Sgt. Darrell "Shifty" Powers, Co. E, 506th PIR.

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Iraqi firefighters complete training in Mosul

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ushered in 38 graduates of the Coalition-supported firefighting academy here Monday, the first certified firefighters in the post-Saddam era in Iraq.

The new class of academy-trained firefighters promises to introduce ground-breaking lessons and techniques to the force, previously unknown to Iraq's finest. The firefighting force in Mosul and throughout Iraq was often ineffective and incompetent in the field, according to the academy instructors. Burning buildings, for example, would often be dealt with by flooding the building, a futile and dangerous method.

After the six-week program, more than 1,000 man hours in training, and \$300,000 in equipment and academy expenses, the Mosul fire department has a new foundation.

"They went through a six-week training course that's the equivalent of a (Department of Defense) certified firefighting course," said Capt. Leon Pruett of Pocatello, Idaho, 938th Engineering Detachment (Idaho National Guard). "I'd put them against any firefighters in the Army."

The graduates were certified in basic and advanced firefighting skills as well as appropriate techniques in dealing with an aircraft crash. Cadets were required to walk into a burning building, something that was not expected of the firemen before, and extinguish a fire. "It was melting the fire shields, that how hot it was," Pruett said.

Seven of the original 45 cadets did not make the cut. The remaining cadets cleared every hurdle.

"I'd hire these guys into my civilian department. They're 100 percent ready-to-go," said Spec. Eric Voss of Halstead, Kan., 482nd Engineering Firefighters (Kansas Reserve). "I wouldn't sign off on their certificates if they weren't."

The seeds were sewn for the new firefighting force in May when Pruett envisioned a local firefighting force patrolling the grounds of the 101st Airborne's division-rear compound. Pruett, whose son Spc. Eren Pruett works directly for him with the 938th Engineers, labored all summer towards his goal of training the



Pfc. Thomas Day

Student firefighters practice their extinguishing skills in Mosul under the training from soldiers of the 938th Engineering Detachment, from the Idaho National Guard.

firefighting force through the division. Monday marked the realization of that vision.

Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st Airborne Division commanding general, praised Pruett and his soldiers service during the graduation ceremony. "Others are looking to you for an example. Just now in Baghdad, they are trying to organize what you have completed."

Petraeus presented each graduate with their diplomas a 101st Airborne Division challenge coin. "A lot of people have asked why there are so many 'firsts' in Ninevah... the real reason is you, it's the people of Ninevah. You are the reason why we are leading the rest of Iraq."

The graduates now start their 30-day "ride along" program, where the Mosul firemen will follow the Army firemen on real missions. After the 30 days, there off on their own.

When that day comes, the academy instructors have full trust in the new firemen. The firemen have even assisted their Coalition brethren in combating enemy forces.

"Some of them have told us little things about people around town and we passed the info forward. I trust them 100 percent," Voss said.

Confidence is not an issue either. "The difference between the past and now is that



Pfc. Thomas Day

As firefighters and rescuers, the cadets are learning the skills they will need to protect their city. Much of the training focused on lifesaving skills, in addition to pure firefighting skills.

we were firefighters, now we are firefighters and rescuers," said Sami Hammadali Hamad, one of the graduates.

Taps plays for fallen Signal soldier

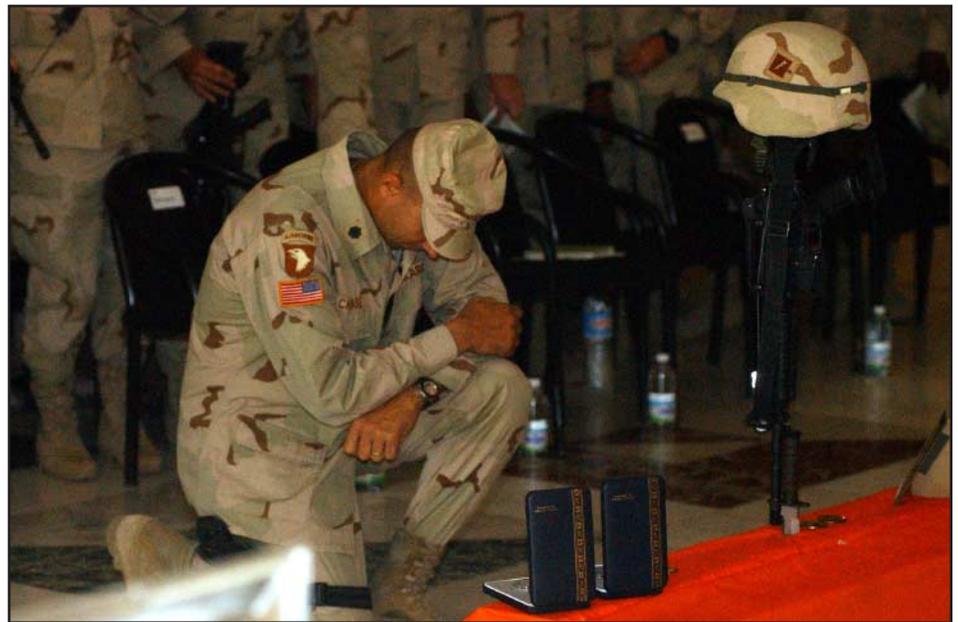
By Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

An improvised explosive device claimed the life of a signal soldier in Mosul, Iraq, Nov. 1.

Spc. Maurice Johnson of Levittown, Penn., Company C, 501st Signal Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), was killed during a convoy through the city of Mosul.

At the time of his death, Johnson was serving as a liaison to the governor of the Nineveh Province, providing communications between the mayor's office and the division commander, coordinating between civil and military operations.

Johnson's official job was as a Single Channel Tactical Satellite Operator. During the combat phase of the operation, he worked on a team that provided FM communications retransmission support, linking base camps during combat opera-



Combat Camera

Lt. Col. Welton Chase, commander of the 501st Signal Battalion, mourned with other soldiers to remember Spc. Maurice J. Johnson, who was killed by an improvised explosive device in Mosul.

tions. He was also deployed as the sole operator on several no-fail missions.

"He brought a lot to the table," said Cpt. Patrick Boss, commander, Co. C, 501st Signal Bn.

"Whether it was helping out the servers, protecting the city hall during a riot, or traveling to work at the mayor's office," said Lt. Col. Welton Chase Jr., commander, 501st Signal, "Johnson was always did his job and did it well."

"Spc. Johnson had it covered," said Sgt. Matthew Patmon, Co. C, 501st. "There

was no mission to great. You could send me 100 soldiers, but none of them could ever replace Spc. Johnson."

Johnson was born on March 12, 1982. He attended basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, Ga.

He also served a one-year tour with the 57th Military Police Company at Camp Henry, Korea.

Services were held at Division Rear Command Post on Nov. 3. He is survived by his sister, Kieshia Johnson.

Fallen MP commander honored, unit colors passed on

By Pfc. Chris Jones
40th PAD

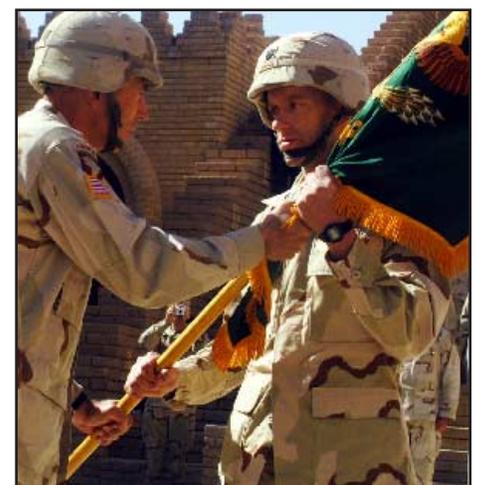
BABYLON, Iraq -- In the arid, ancient Iraqi city of Babylon, soldiers of the 716th Military Police Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) watched Maj. Gen. David Petraeus, 101st commander, pass their unit's colors to a new commander after a skirmish in Karbala left their former leader, Lt. Col. Kim Orlando, and two other soldiers, dead.

"As many of you know, there is a formula for change of command ceremonies," said Petraeus to the soldiers of the battalion. "Today's ceremony, however, is not a normal change of command. If it were, we would be standing on the freshly-cut grass

of the division parade field. Our families would be in the bleachers, and, of course, the outgoing commander would be sitting next to the incoming commander.

"We all know what's missing today - our families, Lt. Col. Orlando, and several of your other comrades. And those absences, especially that of (Lt.) Col. Orlando, who would have played such a key role in this ceremony, weigh heavily on us... so though all changes of command are emotional occasions, this one is unquestionably more so."

Orlando led the Peacekeepers, the most decorated military police battalion in the U.S. Army, throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom, in support of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, directing the establishment of seven Iraqi police academies where more than 6,000 Iraqi policemen



Pfc. Chris Jones

Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st division commander, passes the 716th MP Bn. colors to Lt. Col. Ashton L. Hayes, signifying the change of command to Hayes after the death of Lt. Col. Kim S. Orlando Oct. 16 in Karbala.

See **COMMAND**, page 10

Coalition-trained attorneys complete training

By Pfc. Chris Jones
40th PAD

A ceremony Saturday at the Civil Military Operations Center in Mosul put 48 Iraqi attorneys to work for the city court system to defend those without money to pay for an attorney.

The attorneys were taught the new laws and regulations entrenched in the new Iraqi government after the fall of Saddam's regime by Staff Judge Advocate soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in a three-week course. The program was initiated in July, when SJA soldiers learned that many cases in Iraq were tossed aside when a client had no money to pay for an attorney. Previously, courts in Iraq had no appointed lawyers to defend clients without money to pay for a private attorney, said Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st



Pfc. Chris Jones

Attorneys listen to a speech by Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) commander, during the graduation ceremony Saturday. The attorneys were trained new laws to help them represent citizens of Ninevah Province who cannot afford an attorney.

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Tal Kayf residents take responsibility for town

By Spc. Mary Rose Xenikakis
22nd MPAD

Progress is evident in many towns around Northern Iraq. In the town of Tal Kayf the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) has been stepping back and letting the locals take over their town.

Tal Kayf had many of the same problems that most towns in Iraq had after the war. They had issues with water, sewer, dirty streets, and looted schools among many others.

"The first thing I have done is make order in my town," said Wadha Gorges Llias, Tal Kayf mayor. "Since I have received my job here, I have worked on security, water, propane, and farmers who depended on gasoline to name a few."

The 3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), has used 101st commanders funds to put a water line into the community, restore six schools to an adequate working condition and cleaned up the streets.

They have also worked with the Fixed

Point Security Force and local police to enforce security throughout the Tal Kayf area.

"Initially, our primary goal was to provide security assistance," Capt. Kevin J. William, commander, B Company, 3rd Battalion, 327th Inf. Regt. "We are now in a transition."

Even though the primary goal was security, for B Company, they have worked many long days with the community to make them a standard for the other Iraq towns.

Agriculture is the prominent industry in the community, but they rely on production plants that employ many citizens of Tal Kayf and the surrounding areas.

Wadha said he's been attending meetings with other mayors and mukhtars to learn new ideas and to help their people understand that the coalition is only here to help them better their future.

"The people in my community have changed their ways of thinking about the Americans. They do believe the Americans have helped," Wadha said. "It helps when the people see that the Americans painted six schools in the town and fixed sewage and water problems.

"They have also cleaned the streets and are teaching the people healthier ways of living."

The Tal Kayf mayor has 11 men on his city council. Each of these men have their own area of specialty, which they report back to the mayor on, Wadha said.

"I often go out into the community to interact with the people," he said. "The coalition has helped us (city council) focus on democracy."

With the community learning to stand on its own, citizens still rely heavily on the 101st for things like security and guidance. Even with agricultural industry and production plants, the mayor said there are still not enough jobs to support the amount of people who live in his area.

Despite these trials the mayor said, "The community is becoming more independent everyday. There is development in the society and the people are becoming more cooperative."

"We are now trying to get the government to stand on its own; and they are starting to stand on their own," William said. "We provide what we can give them and then we direct them to there governments own agencies."

Washington's 81st Armor alerted for mobilization

By Spc. Bill Putnam
Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- The Army has mobilized a third National Guard combat brigade for duty in Iraq Oct. 30.

The state of Washington's 81st Armor Brigade received Department of the Army mobilization orders that will bring them on active duty Nov. 15 for about 18 months, according to a Washington National Guard press release dated Oct. 30.

The unit is one of three National Guard enhanced brigades that will deploy to Iraq sometime next spring in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The North Carolina Guard's 30th Infantry Brigade and the Arkansas National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade have already been mobilized and are currently training for a deployment next spring.

About 4,000 soldiers from

Washington and California will report for training Nov. 15 and prepare for deployment, the press release said.

"The 81st brigade will be ready to take on this new mission", said Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg, commander of the Washington National Guard.

The brigade will spend 12 months in Iraq conducting stability and support missions, the release said.

Soldiers will spend the time between now and the mobilization coordinating their absence with their employers and putting their personal affairs in order.

They will have a few days preparing equipment and conducting individual training at their local armories before reporting to their mobilization station at Fort Lewis, Wash.

The brigade will conduct training at Fort Lewis and at Yakima Training Center, Wash., before departing for a mission rehearsal exercise at Fort Irwin, Calif.

The brigade will more than likely deploy to Iraq directly from Fort Irwin, the release said.

There are plans to "partially reconfigure" the brigade during the mobilization, the press release said. The re-organization will also allow the unit to train for the stability operations in Iraq.

Some units will start using Humvees instead of heavy tracked vehicles and will concentrate their training on those vehicles.

But the brigade will also send some of their M-1 Abrams tank and M-2 Bradley fighting vehicles, the release said.

Currently units in Iraq are using armored Humvees to conduct mounted patrols.

The 81st Brigade has two armor battalions, one infantry battalion, one engineer battalion, a field artillery battalion, a support battalion, a cavalry troop, a military intelligence company and an air defense artillery battery.

The 4,800 soldiers of the 30th

Infantry Brigade -- set to augment the Germany-based 1st Infantry Division -- are training at Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Stewart, Ga., said Spc. Robert Jordan, a spokesman for the North Carolina Guard.

Most of the unit's Soldiers will come from North Carolina, and the rest will come from West Virginia, Illinois and New York National Guards, Jordan said.

Soldiers from the 39th Infantry Brigade are currently training with the Fort Hood, Texas-based 1st Cavalry Division, said Air Force Capt. Kristine Munn, the public affairs officer for the Arkansas Guard.

The Soldiers will be getting "country specific training" before deploying to Iraq with the 1st Cavalry, Munn said.

The three mobilized National Guard brigades are three of 15 "enhanced" separate brigades in the Army.

(Editor's note: A press release from the Washington National Guard Public Affairs Office contributed to this story.)

New Web site tells 'Soldier Stories'

WASHINGTON -- Acts of heroism, community service and deeds that exemplify Army values can be found on the Army Homepage's newest feature, "Soldier Stories."

Soldiers who dodge bullets to pull their comrades to safety, and those who are working to improve the condition of run-down Iraqi facilities, schools and hospitals are among those spotlighted at www.army.mil.

Sgt. Timothy Hicks, an artillery cannon crewmember, knew that the small-arms fire aimed at him was getting closer, but he remained focused. His goal was to get to two wounded soldiers, whose supply vehicle had been hit with a rocket-propelled grenade. Hicks later received the Bronze Star for maneuvering the supply vehicle through a "hot zone" and getting his comrades to safety. "This new page pays tribute to the men

"There doing more than rooting out evil, they're restoring water, electricity, and rebuilding infrastructures."

**-Col. James Allen, chief of the
Command Information Division**

and women who exemplify the Army values," said Col. James Allen, chief of the Command Information Division at the Pentagon.

The Soldier Stories Web site was designed to aid speechwriters who want to express to the world that the Army is at war - relevant and ready, Allen said.

"By going to the Web site, writers can get short stories that convey how dedicated, sincere and caring our American Soldiers are. They're doing more than rooting out evil, they're restoring water, electricity, and rebuilding infrastructures.

"If I were writing a speech, I would find it hard to put the pen down with all the good things that are going on in Iraq and Afghanistan." The Soldier Stories Web page went live Oct. 30, and will continuously be updated with new vignettes.

If you know a Soldier whose actions deserve recognition, send your vignette to the Army News Service, "arnews@hqda.army.mil."

101st celebrates Halloween in style

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

QUYARRAH, Iraq - The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) celebrated Halloween with a 10K Race at the 1st Brigade main compound in Quyarrah. Some really got into the spirit, running every meter of the 10K race in full costume.

The 2-17th Cavalry Regiment proved its running might, winning both the men's and women's competition. Maj. Jimmy Blackmon of Ranger, Ga., and Capt. Candy Smith of Greenville, Mich., won with 33:54 and 42:55 times respectively.

"We have fun at it," said Blackmon. "We thought we had a good shot at it. Candy runs real well." So does Blackmon - he runs for the Armed Forces Road Runners team.

"I didn't think I would run quite that fast," Smith said. "Of course, passing my brigade commander (Col. Gregory Gass) made it that much more awesome."

Blackmon and Smith's 2-17th Cavalry

couldn't take home perhaps the most coveted honor of the evening: Best Costume. That honor went to Cpl. Jason Walters of Dayton, Ohio, 6-101st Aviation Regiment, who ran start-to-finish in an elaborate clown suit. Walters finished with a respectable 53:56, "in full gear."

"The clown suit was deadly," Walters joked.

Some ran to win, all ran for fun. "It's necessary at Q-West (the 1st Brigade compound) to spice up our lives a little bit," said Cpt. Katrina Lewison of Hutchinson, Kan., 6-101st Aviation. "Never-mind the fact that none of us have run for seven months." Lewison finished with a 59 minute even, pink feather scarf and all.

While he was not recognized with any kind of award, Capt. Clay Daniels of

Kansas City, 1-327th Infantry Regiment, was the first runner to cross the finish line in full costume. Dressed as a Brazilian soccer player with Rick James-like wig, Daniels finished at 43:11.

"(The wig) stayed on...it was part of my body, just like my ruck sack," Daniels said afterward.

The event was sponsored by Camelback Hydration Systems. The top two finishers in each age group were given Camelbacks.



Pfc. Thomas Day

After the run, soldiers participated in a costume contest.



Pfc. Thomas Day

...And they're off! Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) take off in the murkey Iraqi night, running for their lives, or atleast the promise of candy, in division's Halloween 10K race. Prizes included Camelback hydration systems for the race winners.

Adult education center helps brighten the north

Spc. Mary Rose Xenikakis
22nd MPAD

The first graduating class of the Zumar Adult Education Center, in the town of Zumar, celebrated in an afternoon ceremony to recognize their accomplishments Nov. 1.

With help from local contractors, ambitious school teachers, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the 101st Commanders Emergency Relief Program, the adult education center opened its doors to help further educate local citizens. The citizens this center helps those who are lacking in their literary and mathematical skills; skills which are necessary to obtain jobs like police officers, fire fighters and security forces for Iraq.

Mazaham Suleman Al Sa'adoon, Zumar's mayor, took part in his community and handed out the certificates of completion to the graduating class.

"We cover basic Arabic, like reading,

writing, and sentence structure of the Arabic language," said Salih Abed Khalef, center's headmaster. "They also learn basic mathematics, like adding, subtracting, multiplication and division."

The 101st used approximately \$30,000 from its CERP funds to repair the damaged building and buy supplies needed to operate the school.

The Zumar Adult Education Center has freshly painted rooms with large windows allowing for plenty of light to enter the studying areas.

Salih, speaking proudly of his first graduating class, said there are more great things to come from this school. "The oldest student was 53 and there were 113 students who graduated," Salih said. "I feel it was a very successful program. There are going to be more courses with higher learning, and we will also start teaching English."

This school will provide adults who never had the opportunity to finish or even go to primary and secondary schools the chance to get a basic education at any age. More adult education classes are scheduled to begin after Ramadan.

Clinics open with help of Bechtel funding

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-contracted Bechtel Corporation recently completed renovations to four Mosul health clinics, adding an immediate boost to the healthcare infrastructure of Iraq's second-largest city.

The San Francisco-based company proved their ability to work expeditiously, finishing renovations after just 10-14 days with each clinic.

"We typically spend about twice as much as (the 101st) does," said Jeff McLucas of Bechtel. "Our renovations go into a bit more detail."

McLucas works out of Bechtel's Mosul office. Earlier this year, Bechtel was awarded a \$680 million contract with the mission of rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure after the fall of Saddam's regime. Around \$20 million of that total was cut for the Northern Iraq, but more funding will likely be forthcoming after the contract was recently extended with supplemental funds, according to McLucas.

The 431st Civil Affairs Battalion, from Texas and Arkansas, worked with the organization to facilitate renovation and rebuilding projects, including the four health clinics.

"The doctors and directors are all very proud of the work done and I think they are going to maintain it," said Capt. Katrina Bryant of Lubbock, Texas, 431st CA Battalion. "These are mostly neighborhood clinics. People in the neighborhood are pretty protective of it too."

Private guards have been hired to protect the facilities; Bryant does not anticipate any security issues for the clinics.

Bechtel has spent more than \$3 million on clinic and school renovations in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) area of operations.



Spc. Mary Rose Xenikakis

The mayor of Zummar, Mazaham Suleman Al Sa'adoon, handed out the certificates of completion to the first graduating class of the Zummar Adult Education Center in Zummar on Nov. 1. The center had 113 students graduate from the first course. The headmaster was excited about the opportunities that the adult center will have in the future for higher learning.



Spc. Mary Rose Xenikakis

Lt. Col. Christopher Pease, commander, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), speaks to the formation of graduating police cadets. The cadets went through a rigorous training with both local police and 101st soldiers as instructors.

Tallafar police academy helps puts trained force on the city streets

By Spc. Mary Rose Xenikakis
22nd MPAD

TALLAFAR, Iraq - Another successfully-trained group of police graduated from the Tal Afar Police Academy, Nov. 3.

Lt. Col. Christopher Pease, commander, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), was a guest speaker at the graduation.

"This is an important day for your families, your towns and Iraq as a whole," Pease said. "You selected men are now at the forefront of a new endeavor."

Each newly appointed police went through many different levels of training

to bring them to their graduation day. They had to pass weapons familiarization, riot control, physical fitness, and human ethics along with many other classes. "These lessons in ethics, police work and values you

have learned in the past few weeks will assist you in developing your attitude and professionalism," Pease told the men standing in front of him.

With 171 graduates, the class is now ready and capable to join the new Iraqi police force.

"About half of the 171 police who graduated already have jobs with police stations throughout the area. The other half need to find jobs," said Spc. John Smerbeck, a police academy instructor and soldier with the 1-187th Inf. Regt. He said, police stations have been taking applications and hiring the trained police.

The 1st Bn. of the 187th Inf. Regt. and the local police who work at the academy will not train another group of cadets until the end of Ramadan.

"This is an important day for your families, your towns and Iraq as a whole. You selected men are now at the forefront of a new endeavor."

**-Lt. Col. Christopher Pease,
1st Bn., 187th Infantry Regiment**

First EMT class launched in Iraq by 101st

By Pfc. Chris Jones
40th PAD

Medics of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) won't miss their required annual training while serving in Iraq, thanks to a temporary deployment of several medical instructors from the 101st's home base of Fort Campbell, Ky.

Paul Stevens, chief instructor of Fort Campbell's Army medic "schoolhouse," and a team of instructors deployed to Iraq recently to refresh 101st medics emergency medical technician training in a program called Train the Trainer. Due to the 101st's one-year duration in Iraq, nearly all medics in the division would fall behind their required annual EMT

training, also adding strain on the 91 W Schoolhouse upon the division's expected return in February or March.

The first class began at the Division Rear compound in Mosul last Sunday and is expected to finish Tuesday, according to Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Carbajal, class coordinator. More than 450 medics are expected to run through the course in the coming winter months.

"Once we get a lot of medics re-qualified, they can go back to their [area of operations] and train other medics," Carbajal said.

The program is the first in Iraq, Carbajal said. Previously, a medic employed in a combat zone would have to return to his home base to re-qualify for EMT training.

"It feels good to get these medics the training they'll need while we're here in

Iraq," he said. "It'll really lighten the load once they get back to Fort Campbell."

101st medics will soon have the chance to flaunt their knowledge gained in Train the Trainer. After months of coordination, the Combat Medic Challenge, which will pit medics against medics in a duel for bragging rights as well as thousands of dollars worth of prizes, is set for Nov. 21. Sgt. Maj. John Graben, division surgeon sergeant major, said the focus of the competition will be on having fun, with the exception of a not-so-fun 8-mile ruck march.

Graben said the 101st is spearheading much of the progress in which medical training is offered in a combat zone, with Train the Trainer being a prime example.

"A lot of other divisions are imitating our lead," he said.

COMMAND, from page 4

were trained, Petraeus said.

"This battalion is awesome," Petraeus continued, "Lt. Col. Hayes, I know that you recognize what a great unit this is, a unit whose MPs have been battle-tested and shown themselves to be tough, competent and courageous. They have withstood the loss of their commander and fellow soldiers and friends, and they've continued the mission, never faltering and never wavering."

Much of Hayes' experience comes from his time at Fort Bragg, N.C. Deputy provost marshal, 82nd Airborne Division, operations officer and later executive officer for the 503rd MP Bn., and executive officer for the 16th MP Bde., were among his positions while at Fort Bragg.

Hayes was quick to respond to the void the 101st was left with, Petraeus said.

"Upon notification that we needed him here in Iraq, he immediately packed up, kissed his family goodbye and moved out," Petraeus said. "Clearly,

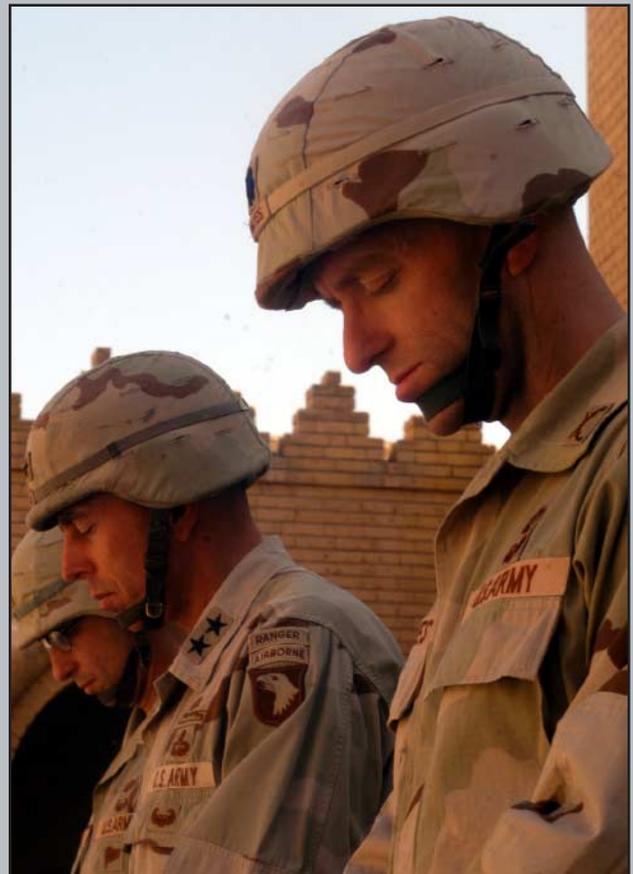
this is a leader who can shift gears, accept a new mission, move out and make it happen."

Hayes had few words for his new battalion, heeding the tragedy of Orlando's death and vowing to carry on the triumphs of the unit.

"Two weeks ago, the battalion took a hit," said Hayes. "But it did not fall and it did not stumble... you have never faltered in your job, and that's about all a leader can ask of his soldiers."

While the ceremony marked the induction of a new battalion commander, it also acted as a final valediction to Orlando

"To be sure, we have said farewell to and honored Colonel Orlando here, and back home he was honored as well - where police cars and fire engines lined the road and manned every overpass and exit on the route taken by the four-mile long funeral procession from Fort Campbell to Nashville (Orlando's hometown)," Petraeus said. "Nonetheless, this ceremony is one more painful reminder that the 716th lost its commander and two of its great soldiers a few weeks ago."



Pfc. Chris Jones

Lt. Col. Ashton Hayes (right) bows during a prayer before the 716th Military Police Battalion assumption of command ceremony. Hayes took command of the battalion after the death of Lt. Col. Kim Orlando Oct. 16.

Hand-made cards save Christmas for soldiers

By Master Sgt. Kelly A. Tyler
101st Public Affairs

When Sgt. First Class Bobby Brown picked up his mail last week, he had mail for everyone.

Packed into two large boxes were some 2,100 hand made Christmas cards, courtesy of his aunt, Rita Holmes.

Holmes, of Hamilton, Ohio, sent the cards to be mailed back home by deployed servicemen.

"It is very important to me to be able to help our service men and women to send something home to their loved ones on special days," Holmes said.

"I feel it is a big help to them to be connected during these times."

The cards, all tucked into their own envelopes, came from 68 people in 27 different states, as well as England and Denmark, in response to an internet posting. All are carefully handmade; some show winter scenes, others host parades of snowmen.

The idea of sending the cards came to



Division Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill and Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Brown look over an assortment of cards mailed to the 101st by Brown's aunt, Rita Holmes, of Hamilton, Ohio.

Holmes earlier in the year.

"It actually came to me before Mother's Day. I was thinking about making a couple of cards to send to Bobby so he could send them to his wife and mother," Holmes said. "A light bulb came on, and I thought it would be a great thing to do so (other) service men and women could do the same."

Holmes sent 327 Mothers Day cards and nearly 400 Fathers Day cards for 101st soldiers to send home. She hopes to get started on a Valentines Day card project

soon.

"It was a surprise," Brown said of his aunt's efforts. "I knew that she likes to be there for people, but I didn't think she would go to this extreme. I figured she might ask for a list of names of people, and put a goody box together, but I never thought it would be something like this."

The outpouring of support for her project also surprised Holmes. "I know that people who make handmade cards love to have a reason to do it. This was such a special reason; I knew I would get a lot of participation. However it did surmount my expectations. My goal was to receive 1,000 cards and instead I received 2,149 cards."

The cards will be delivered to the Infantry brigades by 101st Airborne Division Command Sergeant Major Marvin Hill.

"Our soldiers here experience several stressors associated with this deployment. One of those stressors is that of communicating with our family and friends back home," Hill said. "Birthdays and holidays brings about more concern because our soldiers can't go to the local corner store and select a greeting card for the occasion. The donation of these greeting cards has eased the minds of hundreds of our soldiers for the upcoming holiday season."

"It has given me such pleasure to be able to do this," Holmes said. "It seems like such a small task to do in comparison to what all of you are doing."

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commander.

"Before this program, if you didn't have money, you didn't get an attorney, and those in jail went without representation," Petraeus said. "And sometimes the only way to get a court date would be to confess after you were tortured."

The 48 Iraqis honored in the ceremony were the first attorneys in Northern Iraq to pass an exam formed by Coalition Provisional Authority officials in Baghdad, while 47 more attorneys qualified last week. The goal of the 101st is to have more than 400 attorneys working for courts in the Ninevah Province by the start of 2004.

Lt. Col. John Bell, a Tennessee state

judge and national guardsman, has helped the 101st in the lawyer-training process. He has assisted in the design of a new system to document the court cases.

"Before, the document system was all on paper," Bell said. "It was so dysfunctional you couldn't find a single case. You'd have a case number called out to you, and if you forgot the number you couldn't track your case down. There really was no way to find your case."

Each attorney will be paid \$100 per month by Coalition Forces until the Iraqi government can maintain the salary payment.

"It's like a rebirth of a judicial system," Bell said. "It's already there, but it's being re-grown as a healthier, more stable system."

Man on the Street

How do you spend your free time here in Iraq?



"I'm a legal clerk, so there isn't much free time. Mostly though, I try and catch up on studying for the board."

- Pfc. Ian Northrup of Salisbury, Md., 37th Engineers



"We watch movies a lot. We've resorted to cheap old movies like Godzilla now."

- Sgt. Nicki Wade of Little Rock, Ak., 431st Civil Affairs Bn.

"I don't have much time to read in the States, so I've been catching up on my reading here."

- Sgt. Adrian Carpio of Cal., 800 MP Brig.



"I play cards and think about my lovely wife Stephanie Lawson."

- Sgt. Jason Lawson of Anderson, Ind., HHC, 1st Brig.



"I work out and try not to watch too many movies."

- Sgt. Eric Tanner of Clarksville, Ten., HHC, 1st Brig.



"I do a lot of reading, and monitor my students in the states." (high-school English teacher)

- Sgt. Pamela Tucker of Millbrook, Al., 926th Engineers from Montgomery, Al.