
IRAQI DESTINY

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801st restores sports facility

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

The soldiers of the 801st Main Support Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), have begun renovations on a Mosul sports complex destroyed in the aftermath of Saddam's regime with help from the 52nd Engineering Battalion and local civilians.

The sports complex, located just down the street from a 101st airfield in Mosul, includes a pool, gymnasium and a soccer stadium.

"This isn't a project that will be finished overnight," said Lt. Col. Jerry Chastain, 801st MSB commander. "We've made a lot of progress...not only do the Americans want to get this place opened up but also the kids."

Construction of the facility just finished a year ago and was used primarily for the amusement of the Iraqi military.

Local organized soccer teams would play games several times a week on the soccer field.

When the soldiers of the 801st as-



Pfc. Thomas Day

Soldiers with 801st Main Support Battalion, try to fix a basketball net at a Mosul sports complex.

sessed the facility, the swimming pool more resembled a fishing pond. "The algae was two or three feet high," said Sgt. 1st Class Hector A. Jusino.

"It took four days to get the trash out (of the pool)," Jusino said.

The 801st, according to Jusino, has expended more than 12,000 gallons of water just to clean the pool.

Local citizens, working menial tasks for five dollars a day, have teamed up with the soldiers to clean up the facility. "They would probably do it for free," Jusino remarked. The gymnasium, which was left in ruins by looters, is now clean with two functional basketball hoops at each end of the court.

The 801st soldiers have also begun watering the soccer field and will continue renovations on the stadium once they have finished with the soccer field and gymnasium.

Jusino also promised to maintain a "high state of cleanliness" at the facility after its reopening. "Once everything is clean, we are going to have a team here to continue beautification."

While operations will continue on the facility for an undetermined length of time, Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Womack, command sergeant major, 801st MSB, hopes that the facility will be open once again to the children of Mosul "within two weeks."

MPs help rebuild local police force

By Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

Military Police in Tall-Afar are working with local police to help them to rebuild their force through joint patrols with the Iraqis.

"We're going to each of the police stations in our sectors, meeting the police chiefs, seeing what their needs are and getting patrol routes," said Staff Sgt.

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Spc. Blake Kent

Tall-Afar police hold a morning formation before heading out into the little farming community to stop crime where-ever it may be found.

Soldiers donate computer supplies to university

By Spc. Joshua M. Risner
40th PAD

A number of computer supplies were donated to the Mosul University, May 21 by the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) along with the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion.

When the war broke out and citizens started looting, the university was dealt a harsh blow: all of the 3,100 computers the university possessed were stolen within about six hours, according to Dr. Khalil Al-Saif, director, Mosul University computer center.

"About 245 computers were brought back, but many of them were missing components, such as keyboards and power cables," Al Saif said. He added that only about a third of the computers had all the necessary components.

The main agenda for the military at the

university was to restore internet capabilities, according to Maj. Grant Fondaw, 431st CA Bn. "We found this problem when we came here. We decided we needed to remedy that as well," Fondaw said.

The computer center itself is another ongoing project. The smell of soot and ash permeates the interior, a reminder of the looters that set the building on fire. The walls are blackened and the floors are strewn with trash.

"After 25 years of working at the university, it broke my heart to see the building burned out," Al-Saif said. "We want to turn the computer center back to the way it was before the war."

The soldiers assessed the situation and have since gotten things moving to get the university back on its feet, Fondaw added. "They've provided enough supplies to complete all the computers and now they will distribute them throughout the university," he said.



Spc. Joshua M. Risner

Soldiers unload computer supplies out of their vehicles to give to the Mosul University. The university lost most of its computers due to looters during the war. Some were given back, though they had many missing components.

Units complete mass casualty exercise

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

An exercise aimed at responding to a disaster at the Division Rear in Mosul, Wednesday morning was completed by the 801st Medical Support Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the 21st Combat Support Hospital.

Soldiers in both units were given a situation in which an explosion at a refueling point incurred 13 casualties, forcing all medical personnel to mobilize and respond. "We live in an environment of threat," said Col. Thomas Rozanski, deputy commander, 21st CSH. "Every deployed hospital must be ready for a mass casualty incident."

Patients, played by volunteers throughout the compound, were diagnosed under four categories. "Immediate" status was given

to casualties who needed immediate care and were given top priority. Casualties given "Delayed" status received care within 2 hours. "Minimal" status casualties would receive care, "but it could wait," according to Rozanski.

Finally, casualties who were not expected to live were categorized under "Expectant" status and only received care after all other casualties received attention.

Both units were required to work together, according to Rozanski. "It was a good drill, the team did great," he commented.

This was the fifth such exercise since the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom, while no actual mass-casualty incident comparable to Wednesday's exercise has faced the medic team. Wednesday's exercise was the largest and most challenging the team has undertaken, according to Rozanski.

"We project confidence to the troops that they can do their jobs and we will take care of them," he said. "I don't want anyone to die because we weren't prepared."

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A soldier's perspective of the War on Terrorism

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

As America debated last fall and this winter the issue of whether force was needed to disarm Iraq, the same issue is bound to be the center of intense dialogue regarding the governments of North Korea and Iran. President Bush, in his 2002 State of the Union address, labeled the governments of Iran and North Korea, along with Iraq, as "constituting an axis-of-evil." With victory in Iraq, the War on Terrorism may now focus on these two governments.

The governments of Iran and North Korea have both repressed their people in many of the same ways that Saddam repressed his. Both governments are developing weapons of mass destruction with aims at combating the American international agenda. Both governments have refuted efforts by the international community to abandon their nuclear ambitions and establish democratic reforms.

Nobody could possibly argue that the War on Terrorism ended with the fall of Saddam. The War on Terrorism will be won when we sustain an international coalition, comprised of nations from every corner of the globe, to defeat the enemies of freedom, just as the coalition under NATO won the Cold War.

The War on Terrorism will be won with a steady resolve to beat the enemy through diplomatic channels first. Waging war on all of our enemies unnecessarily will only breed more Osama bin Ladens and more anti-Americanism.

As a soldier and as an American I pray that our relations with North Korea and Iran are resolved through diplomatic channels and not one life is lost in the process. Where diplomacy failed here in Iraq, I believe it can succeed with these two governments.

North Korea

Kim Jung Il, ruler of North Korea, has now successfully developed a nuclear

weapon that many U.S. intelligence sources believe is capable of being launched onto American soil.

North Korea is a very poor country with very little export revenue to feed its people aside from weapons. It has no cash crop but weapons. To generate revenue, the North Korean government has endangered the world by exporting materials designed for nuclear weapons to rogue nations all over the globe, including Pakistan and Yemen, whose support in Operation Enduring Freedom is vital to our success. Because of existing alliances we have made in the War on Terrorism, we cannot stop the barter North Korea has established with countries like Pakistan and Yemen.

An international agreement, negotiated in part by former President Jimmy Carter and then-current President Bill Clinton in 1994, has been shredded by this nuclear megalomaniac dictator. The agreement stipulated that America and the Republic of South Korea would open trade and investment barriers and would work to rebuild the North Korean infrastructure in return for a North Korean promise to end all development of weapons of mass destruction.

Kim Jung Il has broken that promise. Feeding his thirst for a nuclear weapon has superceded feeding his people.

Now the challenge is not to continue the senseless name calling and idle threats, but to ensure the security of the North Korean people. If we can broker an agreement like Clinton and Carter did in 1994, with many of the democratization initiatives we have established here in Iraq, we could save thousands of lives, some of which are our own.

An agreement like the 1994 accord would not alienate our allies in the War on Terrorism if we work with them to disarm North Korea. In return for surrendering the weapons that have been traded with North Korea, we could offer trade alliances aimed at stabilizing their markets and inclusion in the global economy. That's diplomacy at work!

We must broker an agreement with our allies and live up to our promises also. By backing out of our responsibilities in trade

agreements we have made with our War on Terrorism allies, as the current administration has done with Pakistan, we stop the diplomatic process before it really begins.

America and the international community can disarm North Korea and strengthen the resolve of the international community to win the War on Terrorism. There is no evidence to suggest that an agreement is impossible.

Iran

The Iranian hard-line clerics who rule an increasingly liberal and pro-American populace are also working to develop a nuclear weapon against the wishes of the international community. It is highly likely many al-Qaeda operatives escaped to Iran during operations in the fall of 2001 and the winter of 2002. It is even possible those operatives have established a line of communication with the hard-line Iranian government.

After the 1979 overthrow of the Shah in Iran, the Saudis and the Iranians have been in horse race to show the world who has the true face of Islam. The Iranian government, eager to beat the Saudis in this game, has repressed pro-American, pro-democracy movements for the past two decades to strengthen its fundamentalist state. Liberal platforms in parliament have been crushed in the face of the conservative clerics who dominate the military and the Iranian courts.

This state of affairs in Iran is just heartbreaking. The people of Iran are as hungry for democratization, free-trade and relations with America and free-elections as any nation in the Muslim world. With the hard-line government, the Iranian economy is in shambles as the population multiplies. The Iranian people have begged the government to modernize their economy and establish normal relations with America, only to face the stubborn government amenable to none of that.

The Iranian government just this past week reiterated its pledge not to reestablish relations with the United States, citing

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President Bush’s “axis-of-evil” label. With the formation of a democratically elected government here in Iraq, it may have no choice but to reconsider if it wants to remain a part of the Arab League.

Diplomacy can’t fail with Iran. This new generation of Iranians is bound to break through the wall with America’s help. There is no need for American blood to be shed in Iran.

By assembling our allies in the Arab League, many of whom are unhappy about the war with Iraq, we could present a plan to establish trade with the Iranians in return for an agreement to disarm. Such a plan could not only mend some strained friendships with Egypt and Turkey, it would buoy the new generation of Iranians and possibly inspire a new revolution within its borders.

A democratically elected government in Iran would undoubtedly favor normalized relations with America. That’s an objective the United States and our Middle Eastern allies can work together to achieve.

The War on Terrorism, Part III

The Army just wrote a new chapter in our proud history. We are defeating terrorism just as soldiers have defeated nazism, fascism and communism. We defeated enemies of freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq, just as the soldiers before us defeated enemies of freedom in Germany, Italy and Japan in World War II.

We must be steadfast in our efforts to bring democracy to all repressed people, that is how the War on Terrorism will be won. Having the strongest Army and the strongest military in the world is vital to achieving this mission.

As men and women in uniform, we will fight whenever the American people call us to duty. We must also recognize having the strongest military in the world doesn’t equate to abandoning all channels of diplomacy. As a soldier, there is nothing I hate more than war and I know I’m not the only soldier who feels that way.

In the next few years, let’s be patient in letting the course of diplomacy play out with North Korea and Iran. Victory in the War on Terrorism is achievable in the near future, but now the battlefield is a roundtable.

Faith drives Anderson, 101st

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

“**T**here are no atheists in the foxholes,” according to Chap. (Capt.) Bob Hart, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) brigade chaplain. “That’s an old saying in the chaplain corps.”

A crowd of soldiers attended Catholic mass Sunday at the Chaldean Catholic Church in downtown Mosul. Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division watched their commander, Col. Joseph Anderson, participate in services.

Anderson credits his faith for guiding him through operations during the past three months. “It’s given me a source of strength to get through all the challenges we have had to overcome,” he said. The 502nd Infantry Regiment commander read scripture and gave communion to the congregation of roughly 200 parishioners. “I’m going to become a priest after I retire,” Anderson joked after the mass.

Soldiers operating in Mosul received opportunities to attend services Sunday, both within the fences of their bases and at houses of worship throughout the city.

“If you have an opportunity to worship, you take it, especially in the field,” Hart said. “Now that we’re here in Mosul, we have been able to go back to a traditional routine.”



Pfc. Thomas Day

Col. Joseph Anderson, commander, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, (Air Assault) gives communion.

With worship schedules back on track, Army chaplains have been working overtime to meet all of their soldier’s spiritual needs. Hart, who in spite of his Baptist faith attended Catholic mass with his commander, performed seven services Sunday. The 101st Airborne chaplain corps includes chaplains from all three major monotheisms, including Chap. (Capt.) Mohammed Khan, one of only nine Muslim chaplains in the Army.

“Police” from page 1

Charles Siler of Charlotte, N.C., 3rd Platoon, 101st Military Police Company.

Tàll-Afàr police currently have four vehicles, three that work, and although the telephones have been reconnected, they do not have radios to communicate while on patrols. Another need was for a jail facility. “We can provide a holding area at each of their stations,” said 1st Lt. Jeseoph R. Langlois of Coral

Springs, Fla., 3rd Platoon, 101st MP Co. “It’s going to be crude, but it’s only a temporary fix.”

The MPs are confident that it will not be too difficult for the Tàll-Afàr police to transition into conducting their own operations with a few improvements.

“Most of their problems here are with domestic violence and alcohol abuse,” Siler said. “It’s a pretty quiet area.”

Boom! *Engineers blow ordnance*



By Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

Army engineers are helping to ease the workload of Explosive Ordnance Disposal units in Northern Iraq by destroying caches of unexploded ordnance in the region.

Company C, 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), has been collecting UXOs throughout Iraq, currently working in the area of Tàll-Afàr, just south of the Syrian border.

Engineers conduct a large portion of the UXO destructions due to the shortage of EOD available, according to Sgt. 1st Class William A. Foy, C Co., 326th Eng. from Owensborough, Ky.

"We do this a lot more than people think. There just isn't enough EOD here to handle it all," Foy said.

EOD remains available to answer any questions that may arise concerning the UXO; and they also visit each site to determine if the UXO is safe to move or if it should be blown in place, Foy said.

When the team found UXOs with different markings on them, they were set aside to be looked at by EOD.

Within two hours the engineers set up and rigged two explosions, clearing one site of more than 40 rockets.



Photos by Spc. Blake Kent

Company C, 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Abn. Div. (AAslt), clears away the remnants of Iraqi ordnance, making the farming communities of northern Iraq safer. Ordnance is being cleared throughout Iraq by both engineers and EOD.

Stolen goods turn up

By Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

Military and local police patrols turned up supposed stolen goods in a local home. The 3rd Platoon, 101st Military Police Company, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), began conducting patrols yesterday with Tall-Afar police, turning up weapons, supposed stolen uniforms, and a supposed stolen vehicle.

Twenty or more Tall-Afar police loaded into two of the only three working patrol vehicles the police force currently has, leading the MPs to a residence where stolen cars were reported.

The police search of the home turned up two military uniforms and two old AK-47s. Down a farm road 300 meters behind the home, a broken-down truck was found as well.

The local police accused a resident of the home, a retired local police officer, of stealing the uniforms from the police department, as well as the two AKs.

The weapons were determined to be

property of the resident, but after much deliberation, the local police decided that it was against local laws for the residents to have the AKs.

According to current military policy, the locals are allowed to keep weapons for protection, said Staff Sgt. Charles Siler of Charlotte, NC, 3rd Platoon, 101st MPs, 101st Abn. Div. (AAslt.).

A local policeman insisted that they would be going house by house to get rid of illegal weapons.

No specification was given on what determined a weapon to be illegal.

The MPs watched on throughout the bust, interceding only with advice to the local police on proper procedure.

Despite the recommendation of Siler to leave the resident with a fine, the local police took him prisoner, taking the weapons and uniforms as well.

The local police attempted to move the truck that was believed stolen, but could not move it.

The outside of the home was littered with looted items, such as decorative star patterned railings, common throughout Iraq.



Spc. Blake Kent

Tall-Afar police are out in force. They try to start a supposed stolen truck found the truck behind the home of a Tall-Afar resident, who was also accused of having stolen military uniforms and AK-47s. Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, 101st MPs, 101st Abn. Div. (AAslt) are conducting patrols with the police.

Tidbits

Remember the convoy rule: whenever leaving post, it is required that you have at least two vehicles for security purposes.

It also required for soldiers to wear their seatbelts at all times while in a moving vehicle.

Be aware that Brig. Gen. Benjiman Freakley, assistant division commander, (operations) himself is on the lookout for drivers who don't have their seatbelts on.

He will be stopping people to check.

Failure to do so could result in punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Remember you are not allowed to barter with locals across the gates.

You also cannot buy things from children. They are not in school because they are making profit off the Americans.

You will be punished under UCMJ for doing this if you are caught.

Arabic Expressions

English		Arabic
water	=	my
food	=	ah-kel
money	=	floos
doctor	=	diktor/ta-bib
boss	=	rey-es
problem	=	moosh-kila
electricity	=	kah-ra-ba
telephone	=	teli-fone