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# IRAQI DESTINY

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## It's a kid's toy, but it looks real!

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By Spc. Joshua M. Risner  
40th PAD

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In America, a toy gun is typically easily distinguished from the real thing. In Iraq, they look as real as weapons found in a weapons cache.

The toy is made to look like a small caliber semiautomatic pistol. The guns are plastic and very light, but in someone else's hands look very convincing. They have a magazine that loads into the bottom of the hand grip and there is also a slide action that gives the illusion of chambering a round.

The only giveaway in the appearance is a "BB" insignia on the sides of the handgrip.

Whether or not it actually shoots a projectile is unknown, but if it does, it would probably cause little if any harm to the target.

This however, does not necessarily overrule a soldier's instincts, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Barnhill, 431<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion.

"It's unfortunate, but for the safety of our troops, they need to



treat it like a real gun and act accordingly," Barnhill said. "You might see a kid on the street with a toy gun and let him pass by; the next time you see him he could have a real one."

Barnhill speaks from experience. One day, he, an interpreter and some other soldiers were driving through the city. They noticed a kid walking

down the street and appeared to have something suspicious in his hand.

"We got the interpreter to get the kid's attention and he pointed what appeared to be a pistol at us," Barnhill said. "I reacted to it, raised my weapon and told the interpreter to tell him to come over to us."

The boy came up to the vehicle and they took the toy from him.

Then they told him, relayed through the interpreter, that he had just put his life in danger. They also told him not to point anything at a U.S. soldier again, according to Barnhill.

This story could make a soldier second guess his instincts according to Barnhill, but that should not be the case.

"At any rate, if you encounter a situation like this one, you should always treat it like it's a real gun," he said. "You have a split second to make a decision; you need to defend yourself if you feel threatened."

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## Dams responsibility flows to 926th Engineering Group

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By Pfc. Thomas Day  
40th PAD

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Responding to an increasingly volatile situation at the Mosul Dam, the 926<sup>th</sup> Engineering Group has assumed responsibility of the facility from the 431<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion. The Mosul Dam, formerly the Saddam Dam, provides an energy source for much of the city of Mosul but has struggled to function after the fall of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Short term this project has two phases," said Lt. Col. Mike Rorex, operations officer, 926<sup>th</sup> Engineering Group. "One is the

maintainability of the dam...the other phase is doing a geological assessment."

The 926<sup>th</sup> will be providing the dam with necessary turbine oil and sulfuric acid to keep the dam functioning. They will also be providing cement to stabilize the now tenuous foundation of the dam, and will be filling in eroding sinkholes surrounding the area.

"What we're doing today is to make sure the structure is sound," said Col. Jim Rogers of Brighton, Mich., commander, Division Support Command, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault). "The dam was functioning well before."

Rorex and Rogers spent most of the early part of the day

*"Dam" continued page 4*

# Unit finds themselves waist deep in deep waste

By Spc. Blake Kent  
22nd MPAD

Children walk in their sandaled feet through human waste collecting in the neighborhood streets of Mosul, Iraq, but soldiers of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) are working to clean it up.

"Right now we're in crisis mode," said 1st Sgt. John Bradshaw of Jeffersonville, Ind., Company Bravo, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Abn. Div. (AAslt.). "The problem starts because of all the trash in the streets that is gets into the sewage system and backs it up."

The soldiers are working to make immediate improvements, but are also working to create a long-term solution.

The short term solution is clearing the sewage ditches to help the flow of sewage.

"This area may look like just mud," said Capt. Paul Stanton of Chicago, Ill., Co. B, 1-502<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Reg., "but this whole mound is sewage," pointing to a mound of dark black soil where sewage overflows.

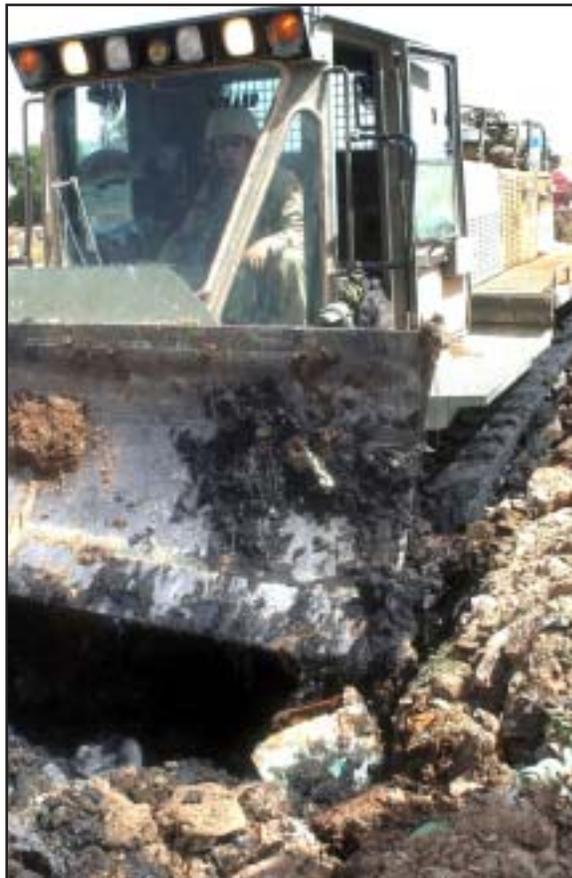
Soldiers are clearing around the drainage area, making it easier for local sewage control personnel to get in.

"The local nationals are going to come dredge this area and clean it out," Stanton said. "Their methods are a little archaic."

"They lower a guy into the ditch to scoop this stuff out with his bare hands, but the goal is to get the drainage running smoothly again so we can concentrate on the bigger problem of trash."

The sewage engineers will be working to not just clean out the area, but better design the sewage system so that it doesn't collect.

In one design, sewage collects in one place where it can be more easily re-



Spc. Blake Kent

*Pfc. Ryan Howard of Greenub, Ky., 887<sup>th</sup> Engineers, works to get his bulldozer unstuck from sewage soaked land near a run-off drainage ditch in Mosul, Iraq. The sewage overflows from home septic tanks into the drainage ditches, but then the amount of trash clogging the drainage causes the sewage to backup into the neighborhoods.*

moved.

"Anything that weighs more than the water will collect in that one spot," allowing for easy removal, Stanton said of the proposed design.

According to Bradshaw, "If we tackle the trash problem, it slows down the spread of disease and clears out the

sewage drains."

The garbage men have not had specific routes where they pick up garbage, so the people were never conditioned to throw their garbage in a specific place, Stanton said.

"They just drive around and pick up trash during the day," said 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Tyler Oliver of Springdale, Ark., Co. B, 1<sup>st</sup> Bat., 320<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Reg., 101<sup>st</sup> Abn. Div. (AAslt.). "We're getting them to change their pick-up times to night to avoid traffic."

According to Bradshaw, concrete structures are being built along routes in the neighborhoods for the people to put their garbage in.

"That will set routes for the garbage trucks," he said.

The soldiers are also working to coordinate a neighborhood clean-up day.

"May 30<sup>th</sup> will be a clean-up day in the neighborhoods, where everybody will come out and clean-up their neighborhoods," Bradshaw said.

Educating the people on how to dispose of their garbage properly is a major concern.

"Educating the people about how and why they

should keep things clean is what is going to fix all this," Bradshaw said.

"This is a pre-war problem, but our goal here is to make it better than it was," he said.

Coalition forces will continue to improve the trash and sewage disposal methods in Mosul.

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# ***Benzene, propane give light for the fu- ture of Mosul***

*By Spc. Blake Kent  
22nd MPAD*

**T**he fuel crisis in the Mosul area is beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel, with an increased supply of benzene and propane being delivered to the area.

There is 1,540 tons of propane being delivered to the towns of northern Iraq, said Lt. Col. Darcy Brewer, Knoxville, TN., executive officer for 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade,

101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Carried in 77 propane tankers, the propane is being split between Mosul, Irbil, and Dahock.

Mosul will receive 69 of the tankers, Irbil and Dahock will each receive four.

Before the war, the Mosul area typically received and used 700 tons of propane a day.

"We are doing what we can, but the people will have to conserve what they have," Brewer said. "A typical bottle of propane should last a family about ten days."

Currently the majority of the fuel is coming from Turkey and Syria, but the fuel refinery located in Baiji, Iraq, has started producing benzene, but is not back up to pre-war production standards.

"We're hoping to have repairs done to the pipeline between Kirkuk and Baiji," Brewer said, "and hopefully production will be back up to pre-war standards with in the next few weeks."

Once the refineries restart their full operations, the supply to Mosul will return to normal.

With benzene also coming into the country, more fuel stations will be opening as well.

"(Friday) we received 51 tankers of benzene from Turkey, (Saturday) we'll get 140 benzene tankers," Brewer said. "We are opening both the government and private stations now that we have fuel starting to come in, making the lines a little shorter."

Fuel coming into the country helps to

lower the prices, making it even more affordable to the people.

"Benzene is priced at 20 dinars per liter, and as the supply goes up, the price will drop, but we still will not tolerate black-marketing of fuel," Brewer said.

Problems with black-market sales of propane and benzene have caused problems for a fair distribution of fuel for the people.

"We've put a number of controls in place to afford all people an equal shot at fuel," said Lt. Col Stephen E. Bruch of Richmond, Vir, commander of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. We regulate the prices and use each family's census stamp as a rationing card, so everyone can get fuel."

Benzene sales on the black-market cause a shortage for people in need of fuel, and in turn, the necessity to pay higher prices for black-market fuel.

Fuel is siphoned from cars, put into bottles and sold on the side of the street.

"We run patrols that interdict people that would sell benzene out of bottles on the side of the road," Bruch said.

Black-market fuel will be seized and distributed to the needy people of Mosul, the hospitals and orphanages, and the black-marketers will be arrested, Brewer said.

"The supply is not steady yet, but getting fuel from Syria and Turkey is helping to stop the problem," said Abdullah Mallah Hajallawy, manager of the government fuel stations in northern Iraq.

## **Mosul school receives assistance from NGO**

*By Pfc. Thomas Day  
40th PAD*

**S**oldiers from the 431<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion are working to reestablish a local secondary school in coordination with WorldVision and Qandil, civilian organizations from Australia and Sweden respectively focused on providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq.

Officials from WorldVision and Qandil toured the school with the 431<sup>st</sup> Saturday and assessed what it would need to begin again.

The school, located in the village of Sanalik just 10 miles south of Mosul for elementary age students, was used by enemy forces to shelter ammunition during the coalition forces invasion.

"It's a common practice of theirs," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Glenn Avery of Springfield, Mass.

"That way if we did happen to blow it up they could say, 'see, look at this school,'" he said.

Saddam's forces left the school with few to no supplies for the teachers and students.

"When they brought in Army weapons," a school official told the non-governmental humanitarian organizations, "they moved out all the desks."

Both WorldVision and Qandil and the 431<sup>st</sup> CA promised to help bring back school supplies including desks and chalkboards for the roughly 300 students.

The school has also run into hurdles trying to run safe water. A sulfur plant just three miles from the facility contaminated its drinking water.

The civilian humanitarian organizations pledged to supply three water tanks and repair existing water tanks that were contaminated by the plant. The 431<sup>st</sup> CA also pledged to facilitate repairs on the schools bathrooms.

The 431<sup>st</sup> CA mission to reestablish the school came on the day that a \$50 a month stipend was given to local teachers by the Office of Rehabilitation and Humanitarian Assistance.

The teachers of the Sanalik school were included in this salary payment.

# War Faces



Spc. Grant Peters, 22nd  
Mobile Public Affairs  
Detachment, Fort  
Bragg.



Sgt. Joe Hyland, 431st  
Civil Affairs Battalion,  
Little Rock, AR



Sgt. Patrick D. Pitt,  
431st Civil Affairs  
Battalion, Little Rock,  
AR



Pfc. Thomas Day, 40th  
Public Affairs Detach-  
ment, Fort Campbell



Pfc. Thomas Day

Brig. Gen. Edward Sinclair, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) assistant division commander (support), escorts Mosul Dam authorities onto a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. The dam authorities were able to get an aerial assessment of the structure with Sinclair and officers from the 926th Engineering Group.

## ***"Dam" from page 1***

touring the facility with Brig. Gen. Edward Sinclair, Assistant Division Commander (Support), 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault), including getting a birds eye view from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Iraqi civilian officials, who supervised the dam before the fall of Saddam, came along and helped Sinclair and the 926<sup>th</sup> Engineers assess the situation.

The 926<sup>th</sup> will now act to facilitate the flow of necessary supplies to the dam. American engineers, through the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, will also oversee and assist with the project. Much of the labor to stabilize the dam will come from Iraqi civilian workers.

The 431<sup>st</sup>, which had been heading the project of stabilizing the dam, will now focus on other reconstruction projects.

# Job market: Employment little rocky for new college graduates in Mosul

By Spc. Joshua M. Risner  
40th PAD

Tara Saba-Shari, a law student from Kirkuk, doesn't have any doubts about the prospects of getting a job.

"Educated people are going to be the ones with the most benefits."

As students near graduation from the university in Mosul, they prepare to enter the job market.

However, the future of the economy and employment possibilities is still unknown according to Soahdallah Tawfiq Swemar, university president.

"Our concern right now is gathering the students who are ready to graduate and getting them back to class in time to take their final exams a month from now," he said. "We don't know what will happen."

The government held the responsibility for placing college graduates into jobs before the war, according to Swemar. "We haven't thought of how we will accommodate this problem yet," he said.

"One problem with the government policy was they put people in jobs they were unqualified to do and put the qualified people elsewhere. One goal we have is to make that better."

The uncertainties are in place, but the people have differing opinions on the subject of employment.

"The people at the university, we talk about the future of Iraq. We are the ones who will make progress in this country."  
-- Tara Saba-Shari

"The people at the university, we talk about the future of Iraq. We are the ones who will make progress in this country," she said.

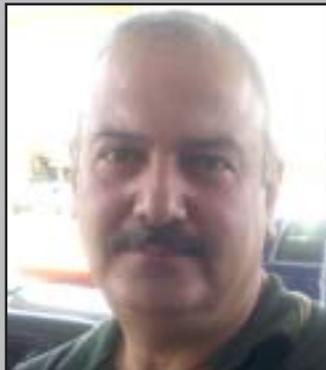
Dr. Obey Al-Wattar, an economics professor at the university, doesn't have much faith in the job market of present. "I don't think many of these students will get jobs when they graduate," he said.

"Because the unemployment is so high right now. That has a lot to do with the demolishing of the Army. There were many jobs there and those people have flooded the market," Al-Wattar said. "Many of the industries aren't running and there just aren't enough jobs out there right now for the people."

New Deal, Texas native Staff Sgt. Rocky Upchurch, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion has a positive outlook on the situation. "In my opinion, I think you're going to get a new class of leaders in these college graduates. It's still going to take time, but I think education is going to grow more important for employment in the future," he said.

## Man on the Street

Do you think the traffic police are doing a good job?

			
I feel that they are much better now compared to the end of the war. -Emad Yonis	I think they are trying to do their jobs, but citizens are not following the law. -Saleh Mohammed	They are still not feeling responsible for enforcing the law. -Uday Salah	They need to be able to punish people for breaking traffic laws. -Akram Abduahad

# Local resident recalls former President Bush's promise

A friend of mine had told me a story. I don't know whether it was right.

After the second Gulf War, an archbishop fled away to Turkey and then to the states. There, he managed to be a member who had an interview with President Bush the father.

The archbishop stated that he had come to the states not representing his own people but the whole Iraqi people with all their sects, religions and origins. The archbishop spoke telling a story of Saint George with the monster.

He said that once in the past there was a peaceful village. The people were decent and tranquil but they were plagued by a monster which demanded a girl to kill everyday.

The village suffered but there was no other way.

There appeared a brave youth who was ready to stand against this monster. He challenged the monster, ended him with his spear and saved the village.

Here, the archbishop said that President Bush had killed the Iraqi people and let the monster live.

President Bush stood up and thanked the archbishop promising that the monster would be killed and the Iraqi people would live.

*Contributed by  
Salim Daoud Karomy*

# Mosul's local cake salesman



Maj. Carl E. Purvis

*Mista Mista -- "One cake for a dollar" -- This Iraqi man is selling cake on the streets of Mosul. His cakes, which he sells for one dollar, are a fried sweet bread and has the feel of an American angel food cake.*

# Chaplains Corner Individuality

All of us are blessed with individuality.

We're different from each other.

That's how God meant us to be.

So when opinions differ,

And you don't see eye to eye,

Or any angry words are spoken

And tempers start to fly,

Calm yourself and try to see the other person's view.

Meditate your differences

As God wants you to do,

For by living well with others

Through every kind of strife,

Our horizons broaden

And we get much more from life!

"In your anger do not sin" : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold."

Ephesians 4:26-27

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# Arabic Expressions

Here are a few phrases translated from Arabic to English to make your all-expense-paid vacation in Iraq a little more comfortable.

English	=	Arabic
head	=	ra'as
heavy	=	taGIL
knife	=	saKHIna
light	=	khaFIF
leg	=	saq
map	=	khaRITa
matches	=	kaBRIT