

IRAQI DESTINY

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Division stops riot in Mosul

Two protesters were killed and two more injured by Iraqi police guarding the Mosul interim government city hall Thursday.

Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) however, brought a quick resolution to a riot.

The division's 2nd Brigade deployed soldiers to the scene minutes before 11 a.m., and pushed rioters away from the building within an hour. The soldiers arrested 13 protesters, breaking up a tense situation between the rioters and Iraqi policemen, said Col. Joseph Anderson, commander, 2nd Brigade.

Aside from a liaison officer, there were no U.S. troops inside the building when the riot broke out. Before the soldiers arrived, the mob had forced its way inside the compound wielding pipes, bats and other hand weapons.

The building was also struck by small arms fire, breaking windows but injuring no one, Anderson said. The small arms fire was apparently from rioters in trees and on rooftops across the street, he said. The rioters who allegedly fired on the building were among the 13 arrested by U.S. forces, Anderson said.

According to Anderson, the two protesters who were wounded were evacuated to a local hospital, and their conditions are unknown. Those arrested were taken to a local police station

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Protests banned until June 20th

By Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

After protests in Mosul turned violent Thursday and Friday, a ban on organized protests was put in place in the city.

Protestors were ex-Iraqi soldiers who have not received payment since the fall of the Ba'ath Regime.

Because of the protestors choice to turn the protest into an attempt at looting and violence, a ban on all protests, peaceful or violent, was put into place throughout the city starting Thursday night.

The ban on protests will last until the June 20th, after which point citizens wishing to protest must get a permit from the mayor's office to protest or demonstrate.

"Until the 20th, we will be arresting all protestors,

"Ban" continued on page 5

2-44th ADA joins PDK, former Iraqi fighters

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

A mission joining the Kurdish Peshmerga forces and former Iraqi soldiers into a joint security force is an ongoing mission by the 2nd Battalion of the 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

The once warring adversaries now will combine under the direction of a 2-44th ADA shadow company led by Capt. Brian DeLeon of Tacoma, Wash. The company will initially provide security for American ammunition supply points in Mosul, eventually leading security efforts in the streets of Iraq's second largest city.

"This is the first time that former Iraqi soldiers have come to the Peshmerga training camp to train," said Lt. Col. Rodney X. McCants of Orangeburg, S.C., commander, 2-44th ADA. "This is an experiment right here. This could be a

"Soldiers" continued on page 4



Pfc. Thomas Day

A Peshmerga platoon marches during a training mission Thursday at a PDK Special Forces compound. The platoon will be combined with a platoon of former Iraqi soldiers, under the supervision of the 2-44th Air Defense Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), to form a security force for allied bases in Mosul.

Repairing broken cribs

By Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

Looting destroyed a lot of what Mosul University had worked to provide for its students, sparing no room or building, including a children's daycare center for mothers taking classes.

With the help of soldiers from the 159th Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the daycare is getting much needed repairs.

All that was left in the daycare, when walking through it, was "Jungle Book" wallpaper, pictures of fable and children's story characters, looted cribs and a destroyed theatre, where children once watched puppets tell stories before their nap time.

"This was the most beautiful place in the university, despite the embargo, full of joy," said Eba Mudhfar, a university professor helping with the project. "The looting destroyed so much."

"This place was totally looted," said Major Grant W. Fondaw of Amarillo, Texas, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion.

Fondaw is coordinating all the reconstruction projects at the university, directing Army units to projects in the university that are in need of help.

"We have the 159th providing a \$10,000 project fund to the daycare," Fondaw said.

"A lot of what we are doing is making the facilities re-inhabitable and functional," said Capt. Gary Pina of Fort Sill, Okla., fire support officer, 159th Avn. Bde., 101st Abn. Div. (AAslt.).

The 159th's money replaced sinks, doors, cribs, fans and a water heater that were all stolen. Personnel from the daycare center were taken out shopping in the markets of Mosul to acquire the materials they needed to rebuild.

They already have the stores identified on where they want to buy the stuff, Fondaw said. "We couldn't get the project done without the help of the daycare personnel. They know what they need and where to get it."

Mattresses for cribs had to be hand-made and workers were also hired to paint, install fans and new doors, and clean up the center. The personnel hope to reopen the center as soon as the reconstruction project is complete, allowing students with



Spc. Blake Kent

Eba Mudhfar, a university professor helping with the refurbishing of the Mosul University Daycare Center, stands over cribs looted of their mattresses.

children to get back to their studies.

"It's not suitable now to receive any children," Mudhfar said, but as soon as we finish we'll open again."

Another project is looking at purchasing the daycare 20 air conditioner units to make the building more livable for the summer months.

The daycare is able to care for up to 200 children from the ages of 40 days to 4 years old.

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Pfc. Thomas Day
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"USA Express" rocks the house at new MWR center in Mosul

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

USA Express, a traveling cover band of U.S. Army soldiers from Fort Belvoir, Va., helped celebrate a sneak preview of the new Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility at the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) airfield in Mosul Wednesday night.

The facility, which officially opened its doors in a ceremony Friday night, is located where the 101st Assault Command Post operated shortly after the division moved into the city in mid-April.

"This is all about giving soldiers a place to relax," said Col. Jerry Dolinish of

Scranton, Penn., commander, 101st Corp Support Group. "As you can see by the audience, everyone's enjoying it."

Dolinish was "tagged" with the responsibility of organizing the MWR facility by Brig. Gen. Edward Sinclair, assistant division commander (support), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Roughly 1,000 troops from the Division-Rear post and other bases throughout the city watched USA Express perform, with a little help from audience members who were invited to show their own talents on several "Open Mike" segments.

"(The concert) showed us how the soldiers really feel out here," said Spc. Efrain Garcia, drummer of the band.

The facility was also once an officer's

club for the Iraqi Republican Guard before the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It now houses a weight room, movie theatre, beach volleyball court, card game room and a permanent stage that will host future morale boosting performances, according to Dolinish.

The movie theatre patrons were entertained Wednesday by "The Scorpion King" starring The Rock and the summer mega-hit "My Big Fat Greek Wedding."

"It's just a place for the soldiers to get away," said Lt. Col. Steve Countourcotis of San Francisco, operations officer for 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) division rear element.

Countourcotis helped organize the event as well as introducing the band.



Pfc. Thomas Day

USA Express, a top-40 cover band comprised of soldiers from Fort Belvoir, Va., performed to an audience of American soldiers Wednesday night at the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) airfield in Mosul.

Children still feel the pain of war

By Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

Five boys were playing in a field. Two of the boys died, one lost his arm, one was hospitalized in critical condition, and only one walked away with minor wounds and more wisdom to share.

Salah Najah survived by being lucky enough to be closest to the river, where he was thrown, when he and five of his friends accidentally exploded a group of grenades and weapons they found in a field. Mosul is full of stories like Najah's; children playing with unexploded ordnance that finally decide to blow, and locals attempting to dismantle UXOs for the copper casings. In Najah's case, the ordnance was abandoned in the field by locals instead of being turned in at a police station or reported to Coalition Forces for proper disposal. The explosion comes a week after the start of Mosul's weapons turn-in amnesty period, from an area that had been previously cleared.

"We have a weapons turn-in point only about 700 meters from where the explosion occurred," said Lt. Col. Christopher Holden, commander, 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

To aid with educating the people of Mosul about the dangers of UXOs and the importance of the weapons turn-in program, Najah filmed a public service announcement with Holden.

"We drive around the city everyday



Spc Blake Kent

Lt. Col. Christopher Holden, commander, 3-502nd, and Salah Najah filmed a public service announcement for the people of Mosul, after Salah was injured in a UXO explosion that killed two and seriously injured two others.

and see dramatic improvements in normal life," Holden said, "what upsets us the most are dangers of weapons and unexploded ordnance that threaten these beautiful children of Iraq. Young Salah Najah is living proof of the innocence of children during war."

According to Holden, the 3-502nd has established weapons registration points, started classes on mines and explosives for schools, and is distributing pictures to educate the public.

Creating a safe place for children to play is one of the goals of the soldiers. In the Nabi Yunis area, a playground is being constructed. The soldiers insist that the best place for the children is in school, but with school out for the summer, they need a safe place to be, not the streets.

According to Command Sgt. Major

Patrick Boykin of Houston, Texas, 3-502nd, a large portion of what people can do to make things better is simply complying with the weapons turn-in and registration policies that are in place.

"It's all tied into the weapons amnesty program," Boykin said. "We want the people to turn in weapons that could be harmful to children."

According to Boykin there is still much to be done to make the city safer for the children. "I don't think we've reached our goal yet," Boykin said. "We are still trying to gain the trust of the people."

"The road to success rests in protecting the children from violence and hatred," said Chap. Richard Compton, 3-502nd. "We must work together as fathers, mothers, soldiers, teachers, and leaders to improve the quality of life in this city."

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model of other Iraqi security forces."

McCants was on hand to meet with both Peshmerga and former Iraqi Army officers and enlisted soldiers during training Thursday at a PDK Special Forces compound about 70 kilometers north of Mosul.

The training has progressed well, according to McCants and Maj. Dennis Kater, 2-44th operations officer, and may spawn other similar security forces.

"I thought it was a good experience for these guys to work together," Kater said. "We want to continue to build the team."

The soldiers of the 2-44th praised the discipline and training of the Peshmerga and Iraqi soldiers.

The Peshmerga, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Alphonso Jordan of Charlotte, N.C., command sergeant major, 2-44th ADA, "are very disciplined, highly motivated, well trained forces. Then you have the freed Iraqi fighters that require a little more training, with the same desire and the same will as the Peshmerga."

"That's why this training is so important," said Kater.

Soldiers from the PDK, Iraqi Army, and American Army fired AK-47s and Rocket Propelled Grenades in a joint training mission.

Projects in Mosul funded through ORHA

By Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

Rebuilding Mosul in a post-war Iraq takes time and money. As of now, both are available.

Soldiers from the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion are working with units located in the Mosul area to fund reconstruction and refurbishing projects in the community.

Money is being given from seized Iraqi assets through ORHA, to fund projects throughout Iraq.

"What they are able to do is hit a diverse amount of projects," said Maj. Grant W. Fondaw of Amarillo, Texas, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion, "from the universities, internet cafes, churches and mosques, orphanages, and helping to reestablish the communication system."

Fondaw is coordinating the projects for the Mosul University. His group has already helped with needs of the university's library, daycare center, medical school and women's dormitory, and is making plans with the dean of each school to make repairs in their buildings as well.

Meeting with the university deans, Fondaw explained what the Army could provide for each of the schools.

"I know you don't normally like to see military uniforms and vehicles around the university, but maybe when you hear what

I'm here for, you'll be happy to have me," Fondaw said, who is eager to help the deans fix up their schools.

According to Capt. Gary Pina of Fort Sill, Okla., fire support officer, 159th Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), a lot of what the units are doing is making the facilities re-inhabitable and functional again.

Pina's unit helped fund the purchase of materials for the Mosul University library and medical school.

"For the library we bought air coolers, chairs, a sound system for the multi-media center, computer accessories, lights, and office supplies," Pina said.

The medical school received 13 air conditioners, a refrigerator, fans and air coolers.

Units receive \$10,000 through ORHA to find a project in their area to assist in bettering Iraqi communities.

The money is not allowed to be used for anything that would benefit the U.S. soldiers in any way.

"We couldn't fix up a building on the airport with the money and then use it," Fondaw said.

The library has also been able to replace a few of its computers that were looted during the war.

"This is a central part in the library," Mohamed Fahami, assistant researcher and translator at the library. "We had twenty

computers before the war, and now we are working hard to replace them."

The computers are an integral part of the libraries resource tools for the post-graduate students conducting research.

"It's difficult to get periodicals and research materials because of the sanctions, so we have had to depend on the computers," Fahami said.

Fondaw would like to have the schools fixed up before the end of semester exams.

"I can't guarantee the money will be there on time before the end of year exams, but I can make the connections on the money side," Fondaw said, explaining how the money has to be coordinated through the supporting units and ORHA. "Our problem is strictly logistics, the money is there and we just have to get it here."

The purchases are made by the schools and the Army units together. The units provide the money and the schools get to pick out exactly what they are in need of.

According to Fondaw, the schools will find the supplies and make coordination with the shops to buy the goods.

"By having people from the school going to make the purchases for equipment, they get a better price," Fondaw said.

Reconstruction and refurbishing projects will continue throughout the city. Some future projects include reestablishing communication systems in the country and building playgrounds for children.

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run jointly by U.S. forces and Iraqi police, he said.

The city hall will remain guarded by the 101st, who will once again maintain a security contingent on the premises.

As a result of today's violence, Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander, Coalition Forces for Northern Iraq, in conjunction with Mosul City Mayor and Ninevah Province Governor Ghanim Al-Baso, enacted an immediate moratorium on demonstrations by groups of 15 or more in Mosul and throughout the Ninevah province.

Contributed by
Pfc. James Matise
101st Abn. Div. (AASlt.) PAO

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peaceful or violent because of the ban," said Col. Joseph Anderson, commander, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

A protest is defined in the ban as being a group of 15 people or more.

No weapons or instruments of destruction are allowed to be carried by protestors.

Protestors will have to provide in their request, the time, place and purpose of their protest, and must form a negotiating group that will speak with government officials to reach a solution to the problem. Anyone who makes violent acts during a protest will be detained for up to a year and fined up to \$1,000.

According to Anderson, the violent turn the protestors took disrupted the economic and political process in the town.

"You have to ask, what is pushing them?" Anderson said. "Are there groups behind them that are trying to make Mosul less stable?"

Anderson continues to remain optimistic though about the future of Mosul and the work his soldiers are doing.

"It's one thing to transition from combat operations to stability operations," Anderson said, "which our soldiers did so well, and we know what it is like to be challenged or threatened during a stability operation. We just have to remember the rules of engagement and follow our basic training, tactics, and procedures, and we will prevail."

Man on the Street

What was the latest rumor you heard about going home?



"It doesn't matter when I go home. It's just more money I'll have in my bank account," Sgt. Michael Brookhyser of Milwaukee, Wis., 1st Battalion, 101st Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).



"Earlier everyone was saying August, but now it is sounding more like October. Hopefully before Christmas," Chap. (Capt.) David Arrendondo, 505th Military Police Company, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).



"Somewhere between August and December," Pfc. Amy Tavarez, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).



"Last I heard we were going to be here till December," Staff Sgt. William Apperson of Monroe, Mich., 1st Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).



Pfc. Thomas Day

A crane operated by a soldier from the 52nd Engineer Battalion, Fort Carson, Col., clears the way for a new parking lot and helicopter pad for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Civilian/Military Operation Center.

52nd Eng. Bn. works up sweat clearing land for CMOC helicopter pad

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

The Nivevah Hotel, currently home to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Civilian/Military Operations Center, will be undergoing a facelift courtesy of the 52nd and 887th Engineer Battalions. A new parking lot and helicopter landing pad is currently under construction and should be completed next week.

Twelve soldiers from the Equipment Platoon, 52nd Engineers wrapped up a week long project clearing dilapidated buildings and other debris from an adjacent plot of land.

"When we first did the tear down, it was kind of unpredictable," said Sgt. Jeremy Evans of Akron, Ohio, 52nd Engineer Battalion. "It was just something we had to watch out for."

Later this week, the 887th Engineer Battalion, with lighter equipment more apt to handle the construction phase of the project, will take over the operation.