
IRAQI DESTINY

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“Historical accomplishment”



Pfc. Thomas Day

Col. Fredrick Hodges, commander, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), accompanied by a linguist, meets with local officials about the establishment of a new Arab-Kurdish joint city southeast of Mosul.

Bastogne “Bulldogs” layout basic infrastructure of new “cross-ethnic” town of Dugur-Khan.

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

A groundbreaking accord was reached Saturday as both Kurdish and Arab officials met with the help of officers from the 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Officials and Imams from the Kurdish city of Makhmur and the Arab city of Keyyarah agreed to the basic layout and infrastructure of a new, cross-ethnic town of Dugur-Khan, a name that combines both Kurdish and Arab traditions. The proposed town lies on the fault line of Kurdish and Arab territories.

“The long term goal is to have Arabs and Kurds to live and work together exactly as they were doing before Arabization under Saddam,” said Col. Ben Hodges, a native of Quincy, Fla., commander, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). “They’re the one’s making decisions, not us (American forces).”

Hodges, along with native Brazilian Lt. Col. Marcus Deoliviera, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment commander, were on hand as local civilian officials, religious authorities, and of course, attorneys, mapped out the blueprint for the new town, bringing out deeds from as far back as 1945 to decide who owned certain lands.

The 1st Brigade commander praised the efforts of the Iraqi officials and of his soldiers in facilitating dialogue. “It’s historic... just two months after the war started.”

Hodges also encouraged the hiring of former Iraqi soldiers in the construction process. The land where Dugur-Khan will

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503rd MP commander meets with Mosul chief of police

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

A day after a detonation of unexploded ordnance Wednesday left by the Iraqi Army killed three Mosul children, Lt. Col. Wade Dennis, commander, 503rd Military Police Battalion, met with General Qassim Al Azawi, police chief of Mosul.

"I'm very sorry to hear about this very tragic incident," Dennis told Al Azawi. "This incident serves to reinforce and point out to everyone how dangerous Mosul still is."

One youth was instantly killed with three other children injured after picking up an unexploded ordnance a short

distance away from the Tigris River in downtown Mosul.

"Two of the children died in the hospital later that day.

"There are still many weapons out there that must be brought to the police's attention and to the coalition forces attention," Dennis added.

Dennis and Al Azawi also talked about new policies that Al Azawi has recently enacted, including a new code of ethics for his police officers and a new weapons policy for the citizens of Mosul.

The 503rd commander praised the police chief's actions, calling them a "very courageous step."

"(Mosul) will see a great, great change...in the way the police serve the citizens of Mosul," Dennis remarked.

Al Azawi also renewed his pledge for amnesty for all citizens of Mosul to obey a new policy directing citizens with more than one firearm per household to turn in their additional weapons to police and military officials.

Citizens who disobey this directive will face up to one year in prison and a 1,000 U.S. Dollar fine.

"The people must cooperate with the U.S. forces and the police to give up the weapons," he said through an American contracted interpreter.

Citizens of Mosul have also been directed to leave their firearms at home unless authorized to carry their weapons. A permit must be kept with anyone who is authorized to carry a firearm in the city of Mosul.

SJA leads judicial process in Mosul

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

As the democratization process continues in Mosul, lawyers with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Staff Judge Advocate have been working to reestablish the judicial process in the second largest city in Iraq.

"We need to make sure they are seeing justice," said Capt. Savas Kyriakiois of Chattanooga, Tenn., who works with Judicial Assessments and Operations alongside Capt. Jamie Phillips of Anchorage, Alaska.

Attorneys from the office of the Staff Judge Advocate are working throughout the 101st area of operation, working to reestablish the judicial system under the ministry of justice abandoned after the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Kyriakiois and Phillips, along with Capt. John Boyer, who works with Foreign Civilian Claims, and Capt. Teresa Raymond with the 502nd Infantry Regiment, work out of the 101st Civilian Military Operations Center. The CMOC attorneys are at work providing an "interface" from the military to the civilian population, according to Boyer a native of Columbus, Ohio.

The Judicial Assessment and Operations team, according to Kyriakiois, is "assessing where the judiciary in Mosul currently stands, what obstacles are present to its smooth operation, eliminating those obstacles and instituting practices for the complete operation of the court system."

Kyriakiois and Phillips have also worked to ensure civilians arrested by coalition forces are given prompt litigation. The

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**101st
Airborne
Division
(Air
Assault)
Mosul Coalition 10K
Run
June 14, 7:30 a.m.,
Mosul Airfield
Celebrate the
Army's 228th
Birthday**

- Men's and women's categories!
- Trophy and CG coin for winner in each category.
- All runners are welcome, but limited to 1,000 participants.
- No entry fee -- register now!

Download entry form posted on eagle web under - SJA. Return form to your S1 for delivery to the D-Rear SJA, at the Mosul Airport (box will be on the SJA counter). If you have no SIPPER connection contact Maj. Ward, D-Rear SJA, (DNVT 581-0975/0976).

Volunteers are also needed to support the race. If you are interested call Capt. Arnold, 101st CSG (DNTV 581-6314).

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be built was twice a Kurdish village, twice destroyed by Saddam's forces in an effort to expel the Kurdish people from their homes.

"When you put them in an environment like this," according to Maj. Patrick Frank of Cuba, N.Y., 327th Infantry Regiment operations officer, "you help diffuse the situation."

Both Hodges and Frank emphasized that American forces played a minimal role in the Kurdish-Arab agreement, helping only to provide security and facilitating the discussion.

"We want to help the Iraqis rebuild," Hodges said. "I'm very pleased with the initiative of the Iraqis."

"SJA" continued from page 2

office has taken the moniker "Justice delayed is justice denied!" during the deployment.

"For me, this is a very exciting time," Phillips remarked.

The Iraqi judicial system at work before the fall of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was based primarily on the British system of justice, established after the fall

of the Ottoman Empire when the British colonized the region.

The courts fall under a federal system based in Baghdad with regional courts fanning throughout the country. This system is similar to the United States circuit courts.

"Government and law go hand-in-hand," Kyriakiois said. "The opportunity to participate in a fledgling democracy is absolutely rewarding."

***Strock looking into Q-west
airstrip reconstruction***



Spc. Joshua M. Risner

Maj. Gen. Carl Strock, director of Army programs, Army Corps of Engineers, meets with soldiers at Q-west to survey the air strip. The airfield at Q-west has the potential to be a major supply point in the northern region of Iraq. The runway is capable of supporting a C-5 galaxy.



Spc. Blake Kent

Soldiers strapped a sign saying, "To the dear citizens. The Coalition Forces request that you leave your weapons. Starting June 1st and lasting until the 14th. Those who don't comply will be punished," to a military vehicle, outside the Mosul police headquarters Sunday.

Tick-tock, time for weapons turn-in

By Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

It's been a week since the beginning of the amnesty period for weapons turn-in around Mosul, Iraq, but many police stations have yet to see any weapons brought in.

"We haven't had anything turned in yet," said 2nd Lt. Clint Hemberg of Greensboro, N.C., Company D, 2nd Brigade, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). "Maybe they are still just hesitant. I think people still want to keep stuff for self-protection."

The new weapons control laws do not ban all weapons, but do put limits and controls on what can be possessed and where it can be kept.

"There are two categories of weapons; heavy weapons and small arms," said Col. Joseph Anderson, commander, 2-502 Infantry Regiment.

Small arms include pistols, shotguns, and rifles that fire ammunitions up to 7.62mm; including AK-47s, Anderson said. Heavy weapons include everything else, such as machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, grenades, and other explosives.

Heavy arms are banned.

"Citizens who have a heavy weapon or know where one is located, must turn it in," Anderson said.

Small arms are not banned though, but are controlled and regulated in how they can be possessed.

"Citizens can keep one small arms weapon in their home and merchants can keep one small arms weapon in their place of business," Anderson said. "Iraqi police, government security forces who are on duty and in uniform, and individuals issued a temporary weapons card, may carry a weapon in public."

No one under the age of 18 is allowed to possess a weapon.

The temporary weapons card available to citizens is given to those who demonstrate a need to carry a small arm in connection with official duty or business, and are valid for a six month period.

Weapons are also banned in specific areas.

"No weapons zones are schools, hospitals, holy sites, courthouses, and other government buildings," Anderson said.

Weapons can be turned in at police stations located throughout Mosul from 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The amnesty period for turning in weapons lasts until June 14th, leaving only a few days more for citizens to turn in illegal

"Turn-in" continued on page 6

Why are there protests in America?

By Spc. Joshua M. Risner
40th PAD

As people all over the United States wave their banners, march and speak out against the war in Iraq, I wonder what they are protesting.

Are they protesting the loss of civilian lives? Are they protesting the Americans going cavalier and preventing the delay of Saddam's demise?

Maybe they're just protesting the war for the sake of protesting. That's probably not true for all of them, but some of those people might not even understand what they are standing against.

I also wonder if they were to come to Iraq and spend a few days with a soldier, if they would feel the same way.

Many of these protesters, especially the ones in America, have no idea what goes on in the streets every day now that Saddam is gone.

They probably don't care about what it was like before the coalition forces intervened.

As for myself, if I had not come here, I would probably protest the war as well. I thought that it was unreasonable to act without approval from the United Nations.

I thought that it was unreasonable to tear apart so many families for a cause that I thought wasn't worth the anguish that would surely come in the future.

I think that if the tables were turned, if Iraq had declared war on the United States, the people in Iraq would have probably been shot in the streets for protesting.

What these people don't see and what I think they need to see, are the people who come to us every day, thanking us for getting rid of Saddam. They need to hear the stories that the Iraqis tell about Saddam and his two sons, Uday and Qusay.

They need to listen about how Uday would ride through the universities, find pretty girls and then abduct and rape them. They need to hear about how he would feed them to his dogs if they resisted him. They need to hear about how he forced the universities to turn the other way and accept it as the way things are.

They need to see how lavish Saddam's palaces are while the towns surrounding them are little more than slums.

Even after seeing that, many of these people would still protest due to the fact that civilian lives were lost.

That is the nature of war: people will inevitably die. That was also the nature of

Saddam's fighters, who on more than one occasion, forcefully put civilians between them and coalition forces. That was the nature of Saddam, who put entire Kurdish villages to death with the use of chemical weapons when they tried to rise up against him.

We of the U.S. armed forces have played an essential role in ridding this world of a scourge that has plagued this region for decades.

We have given people freedom who have never experienced it before. We are helping them understand this concept. We have given them their own country.

Would that change their way of thinking?

I think it might. Some people just won't be swayed no matter how convincing and obvious the facts may be however.

It grieves me to know that I cannot help them see what is here by writing this commentary.

I am trying to open the eyes of at least a few people and possibly give them a new perspective on just what is happening here.

It has been said that freedom is something worth fighting for. I have seen that statement proven first hand right here in Iraq.



Spc. Blake Kent

Waves of happiness from new Mayor

Ghanim Al-Baso, interim mayor of Mosul, Iraq, gives a wave to the people of Al Hadr after meeting with community leaders concerning their upcoming mayoral elections. Al-Baso, has been meeting with villages across northern Iraq, encouraging the people to vote for leaders who are educated and can meet the needs of all the people.

War Faces



Lt. Col. Curtis Craft, native of Newport, Ark., 431st Civil Affairs Battalion



Brig. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, assistant division commander (operations), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault.)



Staff Sgt. Felipe Azua, of Lubbut, Texas, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion



Staff Sgt. Tarance Bizzell of Goldsboro, N.C., 101st Military Police Company, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault.)

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weapons.

“Nobody is turning in anything so far,” said Pfc. Tyler Pablo Coffie of Baltimore, Va., Co. D, 2-502.

“I personally think the people aren’t seeing the consequences of their actions,” he said. “They think they won’t get caught with the weapons so they keep them.”

According to Anderson, there will be severe consequences for having illegal weapons after the amnesty period.

“Weapons will be seized,” Anderson said, “and if convicted people with seized weapons will face one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.”

Chaplains Corner

If You Are Deep in Debt

1. DO get help from professional counselor’s, lawyers, etc.. DON’T pay large fees. There are a lot of good, professional individuals and groups that give free assistance.
 2. DO talk to several different people to get a big picture of what you can do. DON’T make quick decisions. Plan what you will do.
 3. DO get in agreement with your spouse. DON’T allow financial concerns to destroy your marriage.
 4. DO a complete monthly/yearly financial analysis. DON’T leave any expenses off of this analysis.
 5. DO call creditors about your situation. Explain why your payment is late. DON’T wait until they call you.
 6. DO let your creditors know that you are not trying to get out of paying them. DON’T promise creditors what you can’t do.
 7. DO ask for payment reductions. DON’T send in postdated checks to creditors.
 8. DO cut daily expenses. DON’T hesitate to work extra hours to increase you income.
 9. DO remember that this is not the end, but just a way to get your life back in order. DON’T give up. GOD will help you.
 10. DO keep your perspective.
- It is only money - not your life. DON’T forget those things that money can’t buy. Make a list of your blessings.

Editors correction

In an earlier story titled, “Bragg soldiers understand what being deployed means,” Issue #16 of the Iraqi Destiny, Lt. Col. Wade F. Dennis, commander of 503rd Military Police Battalion, was said to be the winner of the “Yard of the Month” which is incorrect.

According to Dennis he hasn’t had anything to do with the beautification around Mosul Airport. Whoever is responsible for such amazing lawn work, please come forward and get your prize.