

425th Civil Affairs Btn. gives a hoot in Diwaniya

Story and photos by Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 1AD PAO

Diwaniya, Iraq -- After nearly a month of planning and delays, a civil affairs project to help clean up the trash plaguing the streets and neighborhoods of the southern Iraqi city of Diwaniya was underway.

Planned by civil affairs soldiers from Team Alpha, B Co., 425 Civil Affairs Battalion, Task Force 1st Armored Division, the project put 300 unemployed Iraqis from four different neighborhoods in Diwaniya to work. The clean-up project was scheduled to last six days.

"Trash has become a big problem here because the trash trucks that were in service before the war have been either looted or stolen," said Sgt. Daniel Lawrence, team alpha project manager.

"Our goal with this project is to have as much trash as possible picked up in six days to provide a safer and cleaner environment for the people," he added.

According to Lawrence, the four neighborhoods designated for clean-up were selected because of the sheer volume of trash and their poor economic status. After they were selected, the neighborhoods' respective governing councils were contacted and brought in to help develop the project in a joint effort to clean up the trash.

"The Army financed the project and supplied the tools, the neighborhoods supplied the labor," Lawrence added.

All of the Iraqis recruited for the project were unemployed prior to being hired for this project and for each day they work, they earn five dollars.



Sgt. Daniel Lawrence (center), CA Team Alpha, B Co., 425 CA Btn., discusses the terms of his trash clean-up project with the supervisors of the various work teams Saturday morning, before they take their crews to their designated neighborhoods and commence work.

"It doesn't sound like much money to an American," Lawrence said, "but it's considerably more than these people have been paid in a long time."

According to Lawrence, the workers will be paid all of their wages when they turn-in the tools they were lent after the project is completed.

The project has several goals: to generate revenue among the jobless and help boost the local economy; deter the young and jobless persons from illegal activities such as common crimes or from joining insurgent militias; and to show support and build a positive working relationship with the local governments, explained Lawrence.

"And obviously, to clean up the neighborhoods," he added. Though the short-term goals are practical ones, the team's long-term

hope with projects such as this is to help inform the Iraqi people about proper solid-waste disposal.

After the work-crews went to work, patrols were sent out to inspect the progress and to ensure that neighborhoods' residents were satisfied with the work being done.

"So far we've had a positive response from the neighborhoods," Lawrence said.

Although the project has not proved easy and its outcome remains to be seen, Lawrence is optimistic about success.

"This (project) has not been without its difficulties," he said, "but I believe this initial project will be a success and we hope to hold projects such as this in other neighborhoods in Diwaniya in the future."



Quote of the Day...

"Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of a readiness to die."

-- Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874-1936), British writer, critic



Sgt. Daniel Lawrence, CA Team Alpha, B Co., 425 CA Btn., hands a bundle of shovels to one of the supervisors of the Iraqi work-groups on the first day of his unit's clean-up project in Diwaniya.

Oddly Enough...

Baby's Diaper Absorbs Snake Venom

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - A diaper proved to be a life-saver when a venomous snake bit an Israeli infant, a doctor said Friday.

The 12-month-old baby, who had been playing in the backyard, was rushed to a hospital only after his parents noticed fang marks on the diaper and swelling on his bottom while giving him a bath in the evening.

"He had been bitten by a venomous snake," Dr Kobi Assaf of Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital told Israel Radio. "Luckily, the snake injected its venom into the diaper on coming into contact with it and most of the poison did not penetrate the skin."

Doctors said there was no need to administer an antidote but the baby would remain in the hospital for observation.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day...

Forgiveness

Clara Barton, the founder of the nursing profession, was never known to hold a grudge against anyone. One time a friend recalled to her a cruel thing that had happened to her some years previously, but Clara seemed not to remember the incident. "Don't you remember the wrong that was done to you?" asked her friend. "No", replied Clara, "I distinctly remember forgetting that." Much like a computer slowed by useless files on its hard drive, so people who retain perfect memory of each and every wrong done to them in life, eventually run down with 'bitterness and rage'. The only way to be free of the past is to forgive the person(s) responsible for the pain. Such forgiveness is often beyond our natural strength, which is why we turn to God and in doing so find that we can "do all things through Him who gives us strength."

Today in History...

(Historynet.com)

1776 Colonists repulse a British sea attack on Charleston, South Carolina.

1778 Mary "Molly Pitcher" Hays McCauley, wife of an American artilleryman, carries water to the soldiers during the Battle of Monmouth.

1863 General Meade replaces General Hooker three days before the Battle of Gettysburg.

1914 Austria's Archduke Francis Ferdinand is assassinated at Sarajevo, Serbia.

1919 Germany signs the Treaty of Versailles under protest.

1930 More than 1,000 communists are routed during an assault on the British consulate in London.

1942 German troops launch an offensive to seize Soviet oil fields in the Caucasus and the city of Stalingrad.

1945 General Douglas MacArthur announces the end of Japanese resistance in the Philippines.

1949 The last U.S. combat troops are called home from Korea, leaving only 500 advisers.

1964 Malcolm X founds the Organization for Afro-American Unity to seek independence for blacks in the Western Hemisphere.

1967 14 people are shot during race riots in Buffalo, New York.

1971 The Supreme Court overturns the draft evasion conviction of Muhammad Ali.



For your Information...

The following AAFES facilities located on BIAP will close and remain closed for business as of the dates listed below.

BIAP(W) PX (Dogwood)
1 JULY 2004.

BIAP(E) AAFES Concessions:
Barber Shop Alterations Shop Gift Shop Bazaar
1 JULY 2004.

BIAP(E) AAFES PX and Burger King
5 JULY 2004.

**The ADACG PX will remain open throughout the
1st Armored Division Redeployment.**

Reenlistment Bonus Incentives continue.

The Army continues to pay soldiers for remaining part of the team. Recently, some bonuses have been retroactive as far back as March 18, 2003.

If a Soldier reenlisted between March 18 and Sept. 18, 2003 for either option E1 (Regular Army) or E2 (Current station stabilization) and did not receive a bonus, he or she should contact their Career Counselor and see if they qualify for the bonus.

The most current update to the Selective Reenlistment Bonus program is MILPER Message 04-163 dated 05/14/2004.



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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2004				As of: Sunday, June 27, 2004 11:58:19 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
0000	SPORTSCENTER (NN)				TIM RUSSERT (NN)	0000
0100	BASEBALL TONIGHT (NN)		THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - CRITICAL MASAI	SESAME STREET	FOX REPORT (NN)	0100
0130		SEINFELD (TV14): - THE MARINE BIOLOGIST	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - JELLYFISH HUNTERS / THE FRY COOK GAMES			0130
0200	MLB (NN) - NY METS @ NY YANKEES	THAT 70'S SHOW (TVPG): - RED AND STACEY	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - SIDE SHOW BOB ROBERTS	DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - BOOTS' SPECIAL DAY	THIS WEEK (NN)	0200
0230		ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT (TVPG):	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - A STAR IS BORED	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		0230
0300			AVERAGE JOE: HAWAII (TV14): - KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	DATELINE INTERNATIONAL (NN)	0300
0330		WWE SMACKDOWN! (TV14):				0330
0400			LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - MONOGAMY	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	60 MINUTES (NN)	0400
0430		AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM (NN)				0430
0500	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	MEET THE PRESS (NN)	MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - SLING RAY	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	CNN PRESENTS (NN)	0500
0530				JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		0530
0600		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - UNDAUNTED	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)	LARRY KING LIVE (NN)	0600
0625				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		0625
0630	BASEBALL TONIGHT (NN)	ESPNEWS				0630
0700		SESAME STREET	FIRST KID		CNN SUNDAY NIGHT (NN)	0700
0713				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		0713
0730	SPORTSCENTER (NN)					0730
0800		DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - BOOTS' SPECIAL DAY		LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - TOPPER	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)	0800
0830		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - THE GATEWAY TO HOME		0830
0900	PGA TOUR (NN) - BOOZ ALLEN CLASSIC: FINAL ROUND	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - CRITICAL MASAI	I SPY (TVY): - A ROCKIN' BRONCO/A WISH FOR A FISH	BELTWAY BOYS (NN)	0900
0930			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - JELLYFISH HUNTERS / THE FRY COOK GAMES	EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - SADIE HAWKINS DAY	FOX NEWS WATCH (NN)	0930
0946		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				0946
1000			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - SIDE SHOW BOB ROBERTS	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	BULLS & BEARS (NN)	1000
1030			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - A STAR IS BORED	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	CAVUTO ON BUSINESS (NN)	1030
1035		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				1035
1100			AVERAGE JOE: HAWAII (TV14): - KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK (NN)	1100
1117		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				1117
1130				PACIFIC REPORT (NN)		1130
1200	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - MONOGAMY	60 MINUTES (NN)	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)	1200
1230		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				1230
1300		TODAY (NN)	MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - SLING RAY	COLD CASE (TV14): - FLY AWAY	GOOD MORNING AMERICA (NN)	1300
1330	BASEBALL TONIGHT (NN)					1330
1400			THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - UNDAUNTED	WITHOUT A TRACE (TVPG): - ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN?		1400
1430	U.S. OLYMPIC TRIALS (NN) - GYMNASTICS					1430
1500		LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - TOPPER	FIRST KID	PACIFIC REPORT (NN)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	1500
1530		DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - THE GATEWAY TO HOME		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING (NN)	1530
1600		I SPY (TVY): - A ROCKIN' BRONCO/A WISH FOR A FISH			THE EARLY SHOW (NN)	1600
1630	ESPNEWS (NN)	EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - SADIE HAWKINS DAY		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		1630
1700	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - CRITICAL MASAI			1700
1730		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - JELLYFISH HUNTERS / THE FRY COOK GAMES	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)		1730
1800		ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - SIDE SHOW BOB ROBERTS	HIGH ANXIETY	FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)	1800
1830	I, MAX (NN)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - A STAR IS BORED			1830
1900	WIMBLEDON TENNIS TOURNAMENT (NN) - ROUND OF 16	60 MINUTES (NN)	AVERAGE JOE: HAWAII (TV14): - KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?		FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)	1900
1945				RETURN TO ME		1945
2000		COLD CASE (TV14): - FLY AWAY	LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - MONOGAMY		FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)	2000
2100		WITHOUT A TRACE (TVPG): - ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN?	MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - SLING RAY		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	2100
2130					INSIDE POLITICS (NN)	2130
2200		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - UNDAUNTED	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		2200
2230		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	2230
2300	AROUND THE HORN (NN)		FIRST KID	TODAY (NN)	LESTER HOLT LIVE (NN)	2300
2330	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION (NN)	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				2330