

MAGAZINE (FORWARD)

SOLDIERS RESCUED IN BAGHDAD

**IRON SOLDIERS CELEBRATE
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

ICDC TRAIN TO DEFEND

Ironside Magazine (Forward)

1st Armored Division Commander
Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey

1st AD Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bush

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. (Promotable) David Gercken

Deputy Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Jason Beck

Chief of Command Information
1st Lt. Michelle Walsh

Division PAO NCOIC
Master Sgt. David Melancon

Editor
Spc. Shauna McRoberts

Layout Design
Cpl. Todd Pruden
Spc. Anthony Reinoso

Staff Writers
Sgt. Mark Bell
Sgt. Mark Rickert
Sgt. Christopher Stanis
Spc. Ryan Smith
Spc. Chad Wilkerson

On the cover:



Mohamed Adnan sits with his mother and sister at Baghdad's Al-Mojahedin primary school Oct. 7. It was the six-year old's first day of school. Photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts

Ironside Magazine (Forward)

is an official publication prepared by the 1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office for members of the U.S. military serving in Iraq. Contents are not necessarily official views of, nor endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense or the U.S. Army. Military public affairs wishing to have articles published in **Ironside Magazine (Forward)** should e-mail the editor at shauna.mcroberts@us.army.mil.

Uniform standards go hand in hand with safety

By Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Bush
1st Armored Division
command sergeant major

First, I would like to thank you for the outstanding job you are doing in this combat environment. It is truly amazing how much you are sacrificing during our part of the war on terrorism.

We have been deployed for nearly six months, but we are far from the end of the road.

As our battle in Iraq continues, we must not become complacent with our surroundings. As safe as we may think we are, there is always imminent danger.

Accidents happen when soldiers become careless. Convoy attacks can occur when soldiers let their guard down. The enemy is looking for soldiers who appear distracted, are out of uniform or seem uninterested in their surroundings.

Keep your eyes open. Stay focused on the task at hand,

whether it is driving, patrolling or guard duty.

As a soldier, you have the duty to protect your battle buddy. It is up to us to get each other home safely. Don't take unnecessary risks.

Keep a watch on each other's health and morale. Someone who is going through rough times is more likely to be distracted from the mission, causing harm to him or others.

The proper wear of military uniform is also important. Deployment does not mean relaxed standards. DCU jackets will be worn at all times while on duty, with sleeves down and cuffs buttoned. DCU trousers will be bloused.

Uniform standards go hand in hand with safety. A proper uniform in the right situation can provide the protection you need. Wear a seatbelt and a Kevlar helmet while riding in military vehicles. If leaving your compound, full battle gear is required. That includes a



COMMAND SGT. MAJ. BUSH

helmet, body armor, goggles, and a weapon with a basic load of ammunition.

Noncommissioned officers, you are charged with the responsibility of making sure your soldiers are safe. That means you must enforce the standards.

These young soldiers are the future of our country and we have an obligation to their mothers and fathers to bring them home, safe and sound.

Iron Soldiers!

Soldiers want to know ...

What awards and decorations am I entitled to from this deployment?

Soldiers serving in the Central Command theater of operation are authorized a shoulder sleeve insignia for wartime service, or "combat patch."

They are also authorized one overseas service stripe, to be worn on the right sleeve, for every sixth month spent in theater.

Currently, the Department of the Army has not approved any ribbons or medals for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Soldiers will be authorized to wear any personal awards they receive.

Soldiers should see their personnel office for more information.

Are my hazardous duty/imminent danger pay and family separation pay going to be reduced?

Public Law 108-11, Section 1316, dated April 16, 2003 authorized an increase to HF/IDP from \$150 to \$225 and FSA from \$100 to \$250 effective Oct. 1, 2002 though Sept. 30, 2003. Public Law 108-84 (Continuing Resolution H.J. Res. 69) was signed Sept. 30, 2003 to extend the entitlements to Oct. 31, 2003. Legislation is in process to extend the increase for both entitlements permanently.

Soldiers should see their finance office for more information.

Soldier rescues two after RPG attack

By Spc. Shauna McRoberts
IAD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – It was the hottest day of the year. In the late morning of Aug. 7, Master Sgt. Brian R. Quarm and six other 1st Armored Division soldiers left Baghdad International Airport in a three-vehicle convoy, headed to central Baghdad on a routine supply mission. The day would be anything but routine, however.

The convoy made three stops at shops downtown and en route to the fourth shop, Quarm noticed two Humvees parked on a median. The convoy continued, parked, and as the soldiers were dismounting the vehicle, they heard a loud explosion.

“I thought to myself, ‘that boom came right from where those Humvees were parked,’” Quarm remembered.

Quarm reacted quickly, immediately racing up the street to the median. He saw that one Humvee had been hit by a rocket-propelled grenade and was on fire. There was a wounded soldier that had been blown out of the vehicle and another soldier stuck inside, his ankle wedged in the door frame.

“My first thought was, ‘I’m not gonna let this guy burn to death in front of me.’”

With the help of another soldier, Quarm managed to yank the trapped soldier out of the vehicle. He then escorted the two wounded soldiers into a store, where they waited safely for medical evacuation.

For his actions, Quarm was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor Device.

Quarm was born Dec. 9, 1966 in Philadelphia, Pa. The



MASTER SGT. BRIAN QUARM

son of a retired first sergeant and a government contracting agent, Quarm, a self-described “Army brat”, spent most of his childhood living at various Army posts, including Bamberg, Germany; Fort Benning, Ga.; and Fort Lewis, Wash.

Quarm graduated from high school in Olympia, Wash., in 1985 and continued on to Evergreen State College, also in Olympia, graduating in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history.

“Then I got cabin fever,” said Quarm. “After moving every three or four years for my entire life, spending seven years in one place felt like a long time. I really wanted to go to law school, but I couldn’t afford it.”

Instead, Quarm visited a recruiter and enlisted in the U.S. Army as a legal specialist on Oct. 20, 1989.

“I grew up to be a soldier,” said Quarm.

Quarm spent the next fourteen years serving as a legal specialist in a variety of assignments, including Fort Carson, Colo.; Vicenza, Italy; Fort Campbell, Ky.; and Charlottesville, Va., where he served as the combat development noncommissioned officer for the Judge

Advocate General Corps.

“I basically helped build the future of the JAG Corps,” he said.

Quarm also earned the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and has been inducted into both the Sergeant Morales and Audie Murphy Clubs.

In June 2003, Quarm arrived in Wiesbaden, Germany for an assignment as the chief paralegal NCO in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st AD. He spent three weeks in Wiesbaden before joining the rest of his deployed unit in Baghdad, Iraq.

“I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else in the world than right here in this division.” Quarm said.

Of his actions on Aug. 7, Quarm said “we did everything right that day.”

“Getting the award is nice, but I didn’t do it for that. I did it because I’d expect other soldiers to do it for me.”

Quarm plans to spend at least 20 years in the Army, and will only retire “when it stops being fun.”

“Being in the military has been the greatest adventure of my life,” said Quarm. “I love it, the challenge and the unknown everyday.”

BRONZE STAR VALOR DEVICE AWARDEES

CAPT. KEITH
BRACEY
HHC, 1AD

WARRANT OFFICER
DONNELL MCINTOSH
HHC, 1AD

SPC. WILLIAM
HARRIS
A, 3-124 INF

PFC. JOSEPH
MORRIS
HHT, 2nd ACR

SGT. BRANDON
HARVILLE
69th CHEM

SPC. BENJAMIN
PRUTZ
HHC, 1AD

SGT. TIMOTHY
HICKS
C, 2-3 FA

MASTER SGT. BRIAN
QUARM
HHC, 1AD

PFC. MATTHEW KNOX
A, 1-1 CAV

STAFF SGT. JOHN
SZEWCZAK
69th CHEM

PFC. ROBERT
LEISHMAN
HHT, 2nd ACR

SPC. RAYMOND
LOFTUS
HHB, 2-3 FA

WHAT IS THE MOST UNUSUAL ITEM YOU'VE RECEIVED IN A CARE PACKAGE?



CPT. MARVIN KING
*Deputy information operations officer
HHC, 1AD*

"I got a package of civilian MREs. I don't plan to ever eat them."



SGT. WILLIAM JONES
*Airspace manager
A, 3-58 Aviation*

"I got some pink, furry handcuffs from an undisclosed, secret source."



SPC. LOUIS MAXEDON
*Military policeman
233rd MP Co.*

"I received 20 boxes of dum-dum suckers and three boxes of just contact solution."



SPC. FAITH SWITZER
*Generator mechanic
C, 47th FSB*

"My parents sent me a cross-stitch kit with a cat and mouse pattern."



SPC. PAT TREVINO
*General construction equipment operator
B, 94th ENG*

"I got a marshmallow blow gun in the mail. It shoots miniature marshmallows."



PFC. AARON CORNETT
*Fire direction specialist
A, 1-94 FA*

"My parents sent me one of the blankets I had as a child."

STEVE MUMFORD IS A NEW YORK CITY-BASED ARTIST WHO TRAVELED THROUGH THE IRAQI REGION DURING THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF 2003. THESE ILLUSTRATIONS ARE FROM MUMFORD'S SECOND TRIP TO IRAQ DURING THE WAR. SPENDING ALMOST TWO MONTHS IN AND AROUND BAGHDAD, MUMFORD RECORDED IMAGES OF THE WAR FROM NEITHER THE VIEWPOINT OF SOLDIERS NOR IRAQIS, BUT CHOOSING TO STUDY BOTH OF THEM FOR HIS ILLUSTRATIONS. IN THE FUTURE MUMFORD PLANS ON PUBLISHING HIS DRAWINGS FROM THIS PERIOD. HIS ILLUSTRATIONS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE, ALONG WITH HIS ASSOCIATED JOURNALS, ONLINE AS "BAGHDAD JOURNAL" AT ARTNET.COM. BESIDES DRAWING, MUMFORD ALSO DOES OIL PAINTINGS HE SHOWS AT POSTMASTERS GALLERY IN NEW YORK CITY.



Preparing to protect the home front

◆ Civil Defense Academy trains Iraq's new "National Guard"

By Sgt. Christopher Stanis
1AD PAO

LOGSDOWN, Iraq – The 1st Armored Division-led Iraqi Civil Defense Corps Training Academy graduated its first company Aug. 28 at Logistical Support Area Dogwood, Iraq, and is going strong nearly two months later.

After completing training, the men and women of the Defense Corps will act as an additional security force in Iraq – similar to the U.S. Army National Guard – in roles and missions such as establishing deliberate traffic control points; conducting cordon and search operations and outer cordon during consequence management operations; providing convoy and forward operating base security; conducting route security at checkpoints; acting as part of a quick-reaction force; and assisting in the recruiting of other Iraqis for the ICDC and the New Iraqi Army.

ICDC will operate jointly with U.S. forces at first, but eventually will operate independently as one of Baghdad's four security forces, which also includes the Iraqi Police Service (IPS), the Facility Protection Service (FPS), and the New Iraqi Army (NIA).

The ICDC recruits go through a six-day training cycle designed to teach basic soldiering skills such as drill and ceremony, weapon familiarization with the AK-47 assault rifle, individual

and squad movement tactics, and first aid. They also go through a number of classes ranging from the laws of war to civics.

In all, 1AD plans to stand up four battalions by Feb. 28.

Sgt. Maj. Richard Fischer, the operations sergeant major with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1AD, is the 1AD ICDC Training Academy commandant. He said the intent is to teach the recruits the basics before sending them back to the 1AD brigade area of operations from which they were recruited.

"They are learning a small portion of how the American Army runs," Fischer said. "It is up to the brigades to teach them more (based on the mission)."

Fischer arrived at the academy three days prior to the start of the first training cycle, bringing with him five noncommissioned officers – mostly former drill sergeants – as the platoon sergeants.

When the recruits rolled in to the academy compound on the back of five-ton trucks and in tour buses, the platoon sergeants seemed to revert back to the drill sergeant mode, yelling at them to download and form up.

The Iraqis arrive in pre-designated squads with soldiers from the recruiting brigade serving as squad leaders.

The recruits are then inprocessed by 55th Personnel Services Battalion, issued uniforms, then immediately formed up by squad to practice drill and ceremony.

Under the blazing sun of the open desert, the squad leaders drill the trainees until they are reformed from the high step marching and Iraqi-style arm swinging taught in



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis

A 1st Armored Division soldier instructs an Iraqi Civil Defense Corps recruit on proper rifle firing techniques during the basic weapons familiarization portion of the weeklong ICDC Training Academy course at Logistical Support Area Dogwood, Iraq.

Saddam's army.

The instructors teach the basic facing movements and forward march. These prove challenging enough with the language barrier. Right face will be called and the recruits will turn left. Forward march, they do an about face.

"We have to remember they don't understand our commands when give in English," Fischer said. "We're used to speaking and executing. Now we have to speak, translate, execute."

The next four days are divided between weapons familiarization, individual and squad movement tactics, basic first aid and classes, with more drill and ceremony in between.

"It's like going through

basic training all over again," said Sgt. 1st Class Reuben Tobias, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, and 1st Platoon leader at the academy.

The only difference, he added, is that, "There's not a lot of time for fine tuning."

The benefit is that most of the recruits served in the former Iraqi Army. Though the U.S. military standard is different from what they were used to, they grasp the basic concept, said Fischer.

"For me this kind of training is simple," said Abedalrazak Jabar Lafta, an ICDC recruit with the first training cycle. "It is not just good training for the body, but good training for the mind."

2-3 FA helps hospital in Aadhamiya

By Sgt. Mark S. Rickert
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Al-Nuaman Hospital is the biggest and oldest public hospital in the Aadhamiya neighborhood district. During the war, the hospital remained operational, providing care to an overwhelming influx of patients, even when the battle jeopardized supply routes. The hospital has endured many hurdles.

Now that the war is over, medical supply lines are still slow coming, and on top of that, many parts of the hospital are falling apart. Although the hospital escaped the damage of war, the damage of time is steadily progressing.

When the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division, established its post within the Aadhamiya district, 1st Lt. Jaime Davila, a medical officer with the 2-3 Field Artillery realized that U.S. forces needed to support the hospital.

“When I arrived here in Aadhamiya, the Al-Nuaman Hospital was fully operational, but they needed support there,” Davila said. “As a medical officer of the battalion, it is my duty to improve the health care system and the level of health care that is provided.”

After assessing the hospital’s needs, Davila immediately tracked down a stockpile of intravenous fluids. During this time, the temperature in Baghdad was skyrocket-

ing, causing a steady influx of patients. Davila coordinated with a medical warehouse in Baghdad, and arranged for a five-ton truck to bring a full cargo of intravenous fluids.

“All hospitals needed fluids during this time,” said Davila. “Especially here in Baghdad, with so many people wounded in the war, and people dehydrating.”

The 2-3 FA’s support reached its climax recently, when an explosion at a nearby detergent factory caused a release of chemicals in the air, which affected the local residents.

“We got a call that there were mass casualties involving inhalation injuries,” said Davila. “They needed medication, intravenous tubing, catheters and so on. The problem was that the incident happened late at night, and there was no way the hospital could get what it needed.”

As fate would have it, 2-3 FA had already stockpiled medical supplies at their base camp. Because of a new Iraqi army training program there on post, 2-3 FA had recently visited an Iraqi medical warehouse and picked up supplies to start a “mini aid station” where Iraqis could treat heat casualties and other injuries.

“It was a life saver to them,” said Davila. “Afterward, we all said, ‘Man, how lucky we had all that stuff!’”

“We were very appreciative of their support,” said Dr. Thair Al-Rawi, director of Al-Nuaman



Photo by Sgt. Mark S. Rickert

1st Lt. Jaime Davila, a physician’s assistant with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, 1st Armored Division, visits a patient at the Al-Nuaman Hospital in Baghdad Sept 24.

Hospital. “We felt they did everything they could do to help us.”

The support from the 2-3 FA won’t stop there. Davila is pushing for funds so that the hospital can refurbish its emergency room and outpatient clinic. Because the hospital is so old, many of its older buildings are in poor condition. In many buildings, the ground floor is uneven and the walls are cracked. There are holes in the ceiling and air-conditioning units need repairing.

The hospital has teamed up with engineers from the Baghdad University. They are planning the recon-

struction, as well as drawing up blueprints. The 2-3 FA is now coordinating the funding for the project.

“The Army has helped us, step by step, with planning and budgeting,” said Al-Rawi. “Davila visits with us regularly, and we feel he is helping as best as he can.”

“It establishes good rapport to have an open communication with fellow medical providers,” said Davila. “The ones who will benefit most are the local Iraqis. We want to provide them with a decent building that is suitable, a clean, hygienic — an up-to-standard medical facility.”

Building a brighter future

Iraqi students get help from family and friends of 1-1 Cav

By Spc. Shauna McRoberts
1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The children were packed into the classrooms of their rural school. They sat three, sometimes four, to a small, narrow, wooden desk. Few had backpacks. Even fewer had notebooks, pens and pencils. Many teachers instructed class without the help of textbooks.

“They had nothing,” said Maj. Gregg Softy, operations officer, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment. “What I spend for my kids to go to school for a year would outfit an entire classroom of Iraqi children for a year.”

Inspired by what he had seen at the 25 schools 1-1 CAV has taken responsibility for, Softy sent a letter to 20 friends and family members.

“I am asking for your help in bringing desperately needed school supplies to the children of our zones here in Baghdad,” he wrote. “After seeing first-hand the conditions of these schools and the reactions of the children we help, it dawned on me how fortunate we all are and how much we sometimes take for granted what we have.”

Within 10 days the packages started arriving. At first, only one or two packages came a day. Then came the idea for *Iraqischools.com*.

“A friend of a friend (who wishes to remain anonymous) was inspired by the project,” said Softy. “He took his own time and money to start a Web site.”

Calling itself the “grassroots volunteer effort to help the children of Iraq” *Iraqischools.com* encourages Americans to participate in the efforts to repair Iraqi schools by sending much-needed school supplies.

“The Web site is our primary means of getting the word out to American people,” said Softy. “It helps people help us.”

As word of the project spread, the packages started pouring in. They’ve been mailed from all over the United States: Florida, South Carolina, Alabama, Connecticut, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey. Parcels have



Photos by Spc. Shauna McRoberts

A young Iraqi schoolgirl cuts a ribbon at a ceremony Oct. 1 at Dufaf Al-Neil primary school in Baghdad. Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, worked throughout the summer repairing schools and gathering supplies to hand out to Iraqi children for the beginning of the school year.

come from churches, schools, Girl and Boy Scout troops and average citizens who just wanted to help.

“The idea grew and grew as the word progressed,” Softy said.

Softy now receives between 15 and 20 packages a day. They are filled with pens, pencils, markers, scissors, notebooks, paper and other much-needed school supplies. People have also sent toys, stuffed animals, hygiene products, clothes and shoes. In all, more than 330 packages have been received.

Softy is hoping to expand the project even further by introducing an Adopt-a-School program, where American organizations can adopt specific Iraqi schools.

“I’d like each Iraqi child to have what kids in the United States have when they go to school,” said Softy. “They need something to write with and something to write on. They need textbooks and they need classrooms filled with supplies.”

Softy anticipates no problems with reaching his goal. He has gotten an extremely positive response from Americans who have written letters to the Web site.

“What we want is for the Iraqi people

to know that there are people thousands of miles away who care very much for their welfare and well-being,” wrote one donor.

“The children of all the countries of this Earth deserve the ability to grow and prosper, and I hope our help can encourage them to remain strong and knowledgeable, and to know that there are people out there who do care,” wrote another.

Softy has also received an overwhelmingly positive response from the teachers and students of the schools 1-1 CAV has helped.

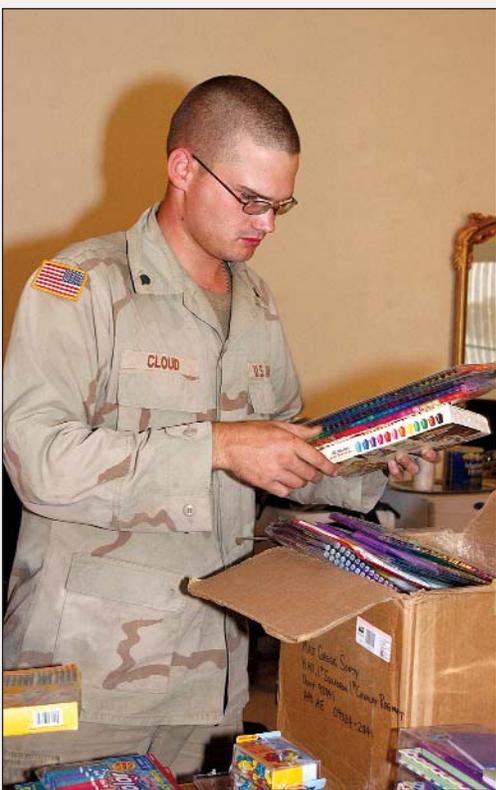
“We think it’s good that the Americans help us,” said Rabha Asheal, headmaster of the Jel Altamem primary school, through an interpreter. “Most of the students are from poor families, so they need all the supplies they can get.”

Softy and the soldiers of 1-1 CAV plan on visiting the schools on a weekly basis to drop off new batches of supplies.

“The soldiers all enjoy seeing the kids receive supplies,” said Softy. “Seeing that makes it all worthwhile. We can leave here knowing we made a difference.”



Two young Iraqi schoolgirls hold up markers they received at Dufaf Al-Neil primary school in Baghdad. Soldiers from 1-1 CAV passed out school supplies, hygiene products and toys to the children Oct. 1.



Spc. Derrick Cloud, a scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-1 CAV, helps sort school supplies Sept. 30. So far, the squadron has received more than 330 packages.



Maj. Gregg Softy, operations officer, 1-1 CAV, helps a young Iraqi schoolgirl tie her new shoes at Dufaf Al-Neil primary school in Baghdad Oct. 1. "We get so much out of seeing the kids receive these things," said Softy. "Soldiers really know they are doing something tangible to help the children of Iraq."

Dispensary opens for displaced persons

◆ Soldiers work to improve Iraqi living conditions

By Spc. Ryan Smith
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – People living in any community need medicine and medical treatment, but, for thousands of Iraqis living in Baghdad, medical care is unavailable. Often the people have no transportation or means to pay for treatment.

This problem is especially prevalent among internally displaced persons—people who have lost their homes because of the war, for political reasons, or because they simply cannot afford to pay rent.

Along with providing displaced Iraqis a place to live, U.S. Army civil affairs soldiers, working with the 1st Armored Division's Governant Support Team, helped to open a medical dispensary at Hillsdale, a camp for internally displaced persons in east Baghdad Sept. 18.

Dr. Ahmed al-Heety, director of the United Iraqi Medical Society (UIMS), and Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling, assistant division commander for support, 1st Armored Division, celebrated the opening of the dispensary with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Shoes, clothes and humanitarian rations were passed out to the residents after the ceremony.

The UIMS and the U.S. Army opened the dispensary at Hillsdale to give the residents a local source for treatment of minor illnesses and injuries, as well as for diagnosis and referral for more serious problems, said Maj. Scott Caldwell, deputy civil military officer for the 1st Armored Division.

“Essentially, the clinic will operate like sick call in the Army,” Caldwell said. “People can come see the doctor when he’s there, and get medicines. If they need further treatment, they can be taken to the hospital.”

Not only will the residents of Hillsdale have local health care, but



Photo by Spc. Ryan Smith

Spc. Beatrice Navarro, civil affairs specialist, 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Danbury, Conn., talks with a girl who lives at Hillsdale in Baghdad Sept. 18. The girl's younger brother was hit and killed by a car recently.

treatment at the dispensary will also be free.

“Most of these people can’t afford medical care,” Caldwell said.

The bill for getting the clinic up and running was \$5,000. The money comes from a discretionary fund set aside for humanitarian aid and reconstruction projects.

“It’s just a drop in the bucket compared to the funds we have set aside for projects like this,” Caldwell said.

It’s an especially important drop, however, for the 800 people who live at Hillsdale.

Most people had been living in government buildings, such as police and fire stations, but many of these buildings are now needed by the new government. U.S. Army civil affairs soldiers and the Iraqi police assisted in moving many of the people to Hillsdale.

Soldiers from the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Danbury, Conn., have spent a great deal of time working with the people living at Hillsdale to make living conditions at the former Iraqi military site more satisfactory.

Several of the buildings there have been renovated to accommodate the

residents, said Spc. Frank O’Farrell, civil affairs specialist, 411th Civil Affairs Battalion.

O’Farrell has overseen much of the work that has been accomplished at Hillsdale. He and Caldwell are also working on other projects to improve the quality of life for the people there.

Potable water is brought to Hillsdale several times a week, but the residents would benefit greatly from more water tanks and a pipeline to pump fresh water in, O’Farrell said.

He is also working on building an irrigation system which will transform the dirt lot in the center of the compound into an agricultural project, building a bakery, and building a chicken farm—all would provide a source of food and even income for the people living there.

O’Farrell is most excited, however, by the prospect of building a school for the nearly 200 children living at Hillsdale.

For now, however, the Hillsdale dispensary is a big step for the community. It gives the people access to medical care that they did not have before, and because it is operated by the UIMS, it’s a significant step in returning public health to Iraqi control.

Soldier's family reunites in Baghdad

◆ Stepfather refugee from first Gulf War

By Sgt. Mark S. Rickert
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — When their plane touched down in Damascus, Syria, Teresa and Lateef Al-Saraji met with a friend there who had waited on the hood of his run-down taxicab. The car didn't look promising, and the curtains hanging over the windows to conceal its cargo brought the dangers into perspective. The couple had a long drive ahead of them and getting past the Syrian border wasn't going to be easy.

They crossed into Iraq and moved on toward Baghdad, but the trip was no joy ride. The car coughed and sputtered most of the time. There weren't many gas stations along the way to refuel the car, and it was too dangerous for the passengers to get out and stretch their legs.

Even with odds stacked against them, the couple finally arrived safely in Baghdad.

It must have seemed strange to the 1st Armored Division soldiers at Camp Ultimo when fel-

low soldier Sgt. Kristin L. Cruikshank, a food preparation specialist with the 16th Engineer Battalion, 1AD, met her mother and stepfather at the front gates of the camp.

So what prompts a mother and stepfather to risk their lives for a family reunion?

For Cruikshank's family, there were many reasons. It all began 13 years ago, while Cruikshank's mother was having lunch at a restaurant in Columbus, Ohio. There, Teresa met Iraqi refugee Lateef Al-Saraji while he bussed tables. Lateef had fled Iraq during the first Gulf War, and had gotten the job shortly after coming to the United States.

Teresa and Lateef soon married, and for the next decade, Lateef could visit Iraq only in his dreams. Because of Saddam Hussein's border policy for refugees, Lateef thought that he would never see his family again. That all changed when his stepdaughter's unit deployed to Baghdad.

When Cruikshank arrived in theater, she took the opportunity to meet with the family she'd seen only in pictures. She met with an interpreter, and gave him a phone number where her extended family in Baghdad could be found. A day later, Cruikshank's Iraqi relatives came to the camp to see her.

So, while Cruikshank's parents negotiated the sandy dunes of Iraq's red-zones, she and her newfound family sat in a quiet room on camp, trying to communicate with each other. The translator could stay only a short while, leaving

Cruikshank and her Iraqi relatives to twiddle their thumbs, groping for a word or a gesture that the other would understand.

"The interpreter couldn't stay long," Cruikshank said. "So, after he left, we spent hours struggling to communi-



Photo by Sgt. Mark S. Rickert

Sgt. Kristin L. Cruikshank, a food preparation specialist with the 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division, stands with her mother and stepfather after reuniting in Baghdad, Sept. 3.

cate."

Finally, after picking through a translator's dictionary, they learned that they could communicate better through pictures, and soon they were taking turns with a notepad and a pencil, playing a primitive game of Pictionary.

"We drew all kinds of pictures," said Cruikshank, laughing at the thought. "That worked a lot better than the dictionary."

By the time Cruikshank's mother and stepfather arrived, she and her Iraqi relatives were well acquainted. When they all met at the front gates, the rest of the camp watched in amazement.

"When I saw her, I hugged her, and I didn't want to let go," said Teresa. "The soldiers just watched us with their mouths hanging open."

"I felt that they've been watching over her and protecting her," said Teresa. "I was

really scared when I found out that Kristin was going to Iraq. But when I learned that the family was close, it made me feel a lot better."

Now, after more than a decade of separation, the Al-Saraji family is together for the very first time. For Lateef, things couldn't get much better. "It's like a dream come true," he said. "I think I'm still in shock."

The reunion won't last forever, and Cruikshank will have to say goodbye to her mother and stepfather soon. As for the rest of her family—they'll be sticking close together. Thanks to some string pulling by Cruikshank, her Iraqi family has a shop set up at Camp Ultimo.

"I'm glad that they're watching out for her," said Teresa. "I feel like they can protect her here and keep her safe. It makes me feel better, knowing that my family is close together."

"When I saw her, I hugged her and didn't want to let go. The soldiers just watched us with their mouths hanging open."

—TERESA AL-SARAJI
MOTHER OF SGT. KRISTIN CRUIKSHANK

The surviving sculpture:

What the sculpture that replaced the Sadaam Hussein statue in Al Ferdous Square really means

By Uday Lutfi
Baghdad Now

Silently shouting, “The survival of the Iraqi people,” the sculpture in Al-Ferdous square shows the suffering of the Iraqi people who survived Saddam’s regime.

The sculpture, which is more than 37 feet tall, was made in a very short period of time — about 12 days — by artist Basim Al-hajar Hamed.

The statue was put in place of Saddam’s statue, which fell on April 9th to show the Iraqi people the beginning of a new age of freedom.

The sculpture shows the Iraqi family (the father, the mother and son), rising with their hands up. They are carrying a crescent, which symbolizes Islamic civilization, and the sun, the symbol of Sumerian civilization, said Bassim.

The sculpture talks about the Iraqi human being as a mortal symbol, which has roots that go back to the old century, and witnesses the resilience of mankind, the resistance to the cruelty of the regime, and the great suffering of Iraqi people.

However, the sculpture is not finished yet, Basim said. Still remaining is the base, showing the historical epic of Gilgamesh where he, along with his friend, Ankedo, killed the bull.

This is to symbolize the fall of Saddam’s regime.

“We have to finish the base which depicts the historical Gilgamesh epic, showing the moment of Gilgamesh, along with Ankedo, against the heavenly bull and the fall of the bull, which shows comparison with the fall of Saddam’s statue,” said Basim.

Referring to the color of the statue, Basim said “the color of the statue does not mean anything, it is only to protect the work from the elements because it is made from gypsum, until we change it to another material like bronze.”

This statue also has a personal meaning to Basim.

“I was a student in the last class of the fine arts institute, and they asked me to make a statue for Saddam Hussein as a graduation subject,” he said. “I refused and because of that they failed me in my course.”

Basim joined friends who had been kicked out of the school for the same reason.

“I was fourth in my class, studying theater, and made my graduation project about the Gilgamesh play for Abler Como. The institute considered me a revolutionary student and a problem maker. So a group of five of us, who had the same ideas of liberation, met in 1992 and started a survivor group.”



Photo by Uday Lutfi

This statue provides the Iraqi people a monument to symbolize the Iraqi struggle and the defeat of the regime. Basim Al-hajar shows how one person’s individual effort can contribute to the good of the Iraqi people.

Task Force 1AD celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

By Spc. Shauna McRoberts
1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Soldiers from Task Force 1st Armored Division celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month at Baghdad International Airport Oct. 3.

President Lyndon B. Johnson started National Hispanic Heritage Month more than 30 years ago, though it was first observed for only one week during mid-September. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan extended the observance to a month and now it is celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Planners, however, were forced to consolidate this year's events into a one-day celebration because of mission requirements.

"We chose one day to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month," said Sgt. 1st Class Lucia C. Cantu, an equal opportunity advisor with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1AD. "Soldiers came from all over Baghdad to celebrate, so we knew we had to make it a one-day event."

The day started off with a five-kilometer run. More than 700 soldiers participated in the run and were given free T-shirts upon fin-

ishing.

Later that day, a luncheon was held at the Bob Hope Dining Facility. Soldiers enjoyed a lunch of traditional Hispanic food and listened to guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Jose A. Santos, 1AD 2nd Brigade command sergeant major.

"National Hispanic Heritage Month is a wonderful opportunity to honor the culture and many contributions of Armed Forces members and civilians with a Spanish-speaking Heritage," he said. "It is the occasion for the Latino community to come together not only to celebrate our accomplishments, but also to share with the world-at-large the Hispanic diversity and pride as people."

The luncheon also featured Sgt. Juan Ortiz, an avionics radio repairman with A Company, 127th Aviation Support Battalion, and Spc. Jessica Negron, a personnel clerk with 15th Personnel Support Battalion, demonstrating three Latin dances: Salsa, Merengue, and Bachata.

"I'm really proud to be Hispanic and to be part of this whole event," said Ortiz. "I enjoy celebrating the music and the sense of unity. Hispanics are family."

Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey,



Photos by Spc. Shauna McRoberts

Sgt. Juan Ortiz, an avionics radio repairman with A Company, 127th Aviation Support Battalion, and Spc. Jessica Negron, a personnel clerk with 15th Personnel Support Battalion, dance during the Hispanic Heritage Luncheon at the Bob Hope Dining Facility Oct. 3.

Task Force 1AD commanding general, also shared his thoughts on the importance of the observance.

"The thing I am most proud of in the Army is our diversity," he said. "What scares the enemy in this part of the world the most is that people with different heritages, cultures and backgrounds can live and work together."

The celebration culminated with an evening piñata party. The 1AD band kicked off the event and soldiers vied to break open two colorful piñatas filled with sweet treats.

Eventually, the music gave way to traditional Latino songs and people crowded the dance floor.

"Overall, the day was a success," said Cantu. "It was a great chance to enjoy the diversity in 1AD, but mostly I just wanted soldiers to have fun."



Spc. Heidi Gill, a petroleum supply specialist with Headquarters and Supply Company, 127th Aviation Support Battalion, swings at a piñata. Gill, along with hundreds of other 1st Armored Division soldiers, celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month at a piñata party at Baghdad International Airport Oct. 3.

Legal staff helps soldiers gain citizenship

By Sgt. Brent M. Williams
49th PAD (Airborne)

BAGHDAD, Iraq—On the right shoulder of U.S. soldiers serving abroad, there is a patch -- a blue field, in which 50 white stars lie, offset with seven red stripes and six white stripes, the colors of the United States of America, honorably trimmed in gold.

Yet, according to Capt. Patrick Murphy, regimental judge advocate for the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, there remains approximately 37,400 soldiers in the U.S. Army who are not citizens of the country they have sworn to defend during times of war and peace.

More than 3,000 of those soldiers are currently deployed to Iraq, he said.

The 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment's Staff Judge Advocate is working to help soldiers obtain their citizenship.

Murphy and his Brigade Operational Legal Team is working with the U.S. Immigration Naturalization Service to help non-citizen 2nd BCT soldiers acquire U.S. citizenship.

There are 25 brigade paratroopers working toward that goal, he said.

President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13269 in July expediting the naturalization process for soldiers deployed in support of America's War on Terrorism, said Murphy.

"It's a tool to help out paratroopers trying to acquire citizenship," Murphy explained. "It waives the three-year requirement for non-citizens, who normally have to serve on active duty for at least three years before they can apply for citizenship."

The idea initially started in Afghanistan, where division

judge advocates worked to speed up the naturalization process for soldiers deployed in a combat environment, said Staff Sgt. Troy D. Robinson, SJA, 2nd BCT.

"We're working through the battalions and the legal teams from the 1st Armored Division to expedite the process for soldiers, reducing waiting periods, possibly waiving fees," Robinson said.

The staff is currently working to recruit an INS judge to interview the applicants and upon approving their citizenship, conduct the oath of allegiance for the soldiers, said Robinson.

Murphy, who taught constitutional military law at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, is working with a fellow graduate, a prominent immigration law attorney in the States, to get an INS judge to come to Baghdad.

Murphy and his team are working to accomplish this task in the next 90 days, added Robinson.

Sgt. Jose E. Salinas, a cannon crewmember with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, was born in Montamores, Mexico, and has lived in the United States for more than 16 years. He sees citizenship as something that must be done.

"It's something I want to get done, because my kids are U.S. citizens," Salinas said. "I am the only one in the family who is a resident and not a citizen. I'm doing what my country needs me to do. I'm doing what other Americans are not doing or have not volunteered to do for their country."

For other soldiers, citizenship is a must to advance in their Army careers. A soldier must be a U.S. citizen to attend Ranger school or join Special Forces.

"I've been living in the U.S. for almost 20 years," said Pfc. Juan Cao a medic



Photo by Sgt. Brent M. Williams

A Spc. David McHenry, a gunner with the 1139th Military Police Company, Missouri Army National Guard, fingerprints Sgt. Ricardo Martinez, an infantryman assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment.

assigned to Company A, 2-325th AIR. Cao joined the U.S. Army after the terrorist attacks against America on Sept. 11, 2001.

The brigade legal staff has been working since June to help the paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team complete all the steps required to complete the naturalization process, said Spc. Juan M. Arevalo, legal specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT.

Arevalo and staff acquired the applications and conducted briefings for the 25 residents seeking citizenship. The

brigade judge advocate also examined every application to ensure that there were no mistakes in order to expedite the process.

It will take approximately three weeks to gather the identification cards, fingerprints and photos for the INS applications, said Arevalo.

Not every paratrooper seeking citizenship will become citizens during their time here because of time constraints, said Murphy.

"We have non-citizens who are making the ultimate sacrifices for the nation," Murphy explained.

Families deploy to Iraq together

By Pfc. Derrol Fulghum
1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – It's a natural thing to miss one's family. The first time someone leaves home, whether he admits it or not, he does miss the comfort and security offered by being with family. That's part of human nature.

And the feelings seem to be amplified during a deployment. Maybe it's being on the other side of the world. Maybe it's the lack of communication with family members.

Some soldiers have an advantage, though.

Sergeants Caleb, Bill and Nick Johnson all serve as combat engineers with 1st Armored Division's Company A, 1457th Engineer Combat Battalion, a Utah Army National Guard unit.

They share the bond of brotherhood, which makes a deployment more bearable, they said.

"Overall, it's a lot easier," said Sgt. Caleb Johnson, at 28, the oldest of the brothers. "You're not missing your family as much, because some of them are here with you."

Sgt. Bill Johnson, 27, joined the Army first, but transferred to his brothers' unit just before being deployed to Iraq.

"We're like brothers *and* teammates," he said. "A lot of people are worrying about their families back home, but we've got part of ours here, so we can look after them."

Sgt. Nick Johnson, the youngest of the trio at 24, offered perhaps the most accurate observation. "It's a lot of stress on our mom."

Nick joined the Army a year after Bill. Caleb followed suit a month later.

Now the three find themselves in Baghdad—thousands of miles from anything familiar—but they're not



Photo by Spc. Andrew Meissner

Sergeants Nick, Bill, and Caleb Johnson relax on the patio outside of their tent at the 1457th Engineer Combat Battalion Life Support Area on Baghdad International Airport. All three of the brothers are combat engineers serving in the same Utah Army National Guard unit currently deployed to Baghdad.

going at it alone. After transferring to the 1457th ECB and finding out they'd be deployed, Bill said, "We knew we had an advantage not many others had."

The brothers Johnson are all married, and their wives spend lots of time with each other back home.

"We get a lot more info from back home since everyone knows everyone else's business," Nick said with a laugh.

While the Johnson brothers get their wives gossip via e-mail or a quick phone call, other families catch up over dinner.

Cpl. Michele Masso, a medic with the 501st Military Police Co., is deployed to Iraq with her husband, Cpl. Miguel Masso, an MP in the same company.

They married a little over a year ago, but Michele said she has hardly seen him since then.

Miguel was deployed on a training mission for several months before coming to Iraq, and now, even though they're right next to each other, they rarely seem to

cross paths because of their different schedules.

"There are times we don't get to see each other, even at work," Michele said,

Because of the unit's policies on improper association during deployment, the couple is unable even to hold hands, or kiss each other goodnight.

Michele also said that being in a war zone with her husband can make for some sleepless nights.

"In some aspects it's harder, because you're constantly worried about that person," she said.

The two are looking forward to their upcoming permanent change of station to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York where Miguel will continue his job as an MP, and Michele will work in the hospital.

As for the Johnsons, none of the three know what the future holds when they get back to Utah, but Bill said one thing is certain: "This has been an experience few others enjoy."

Around Baghdad

A glimpse of the faces and places in Iraq's capital city



Photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts



Photo by Spc. Chad Wilkerson



Photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts

(Clockwise from top left) The sun rising over Baghdad International Airport; Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Tobin, 47th Forward Support Battalion command sergeant major, runs in BIAP's 10 mile/10 kilometer run Oct. 5; Spc. Christopher Peckham, a scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, talks with Iraqi children; An Iraqi girl hides her face; A young Iraqi girl.



Photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts



Photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts