

## MEDCAP makes medicine mobile

**Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Tony Sailer, 1AD PAO**

KARBALA, Iraq – Medical Soldiers from Task Force 1-37 Armor, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Division, together with medical professionals from the Thailand Task Force conducted a medical treatment program for more than 100 Iraqi Police Service Officers and Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldiers during a joint Medical Civil Action Program (MEDCAP).

“A MEDCAP is typically run under the banner of a humanitarian mission and the primary goal is to offer free healthcare to the local nationals,” Dr. (Capt.) Jim Hardigan, the Task Force Battalion Surgeon said.

“Usually it is in an effort to augment the local healthcare system simply because the local healthcare system does not have the personnel, equipment or supplies to provide certain care,” Hardigan continued.

The MEDCAP started off slowly, with only a handful of patients showing up, but steadily grew once the leaders got the word out

“We had a few local sheiks show up and get treated,” Hardigan said, “After they were through, I think they went back to their communities and said ‘these guys are doing O.K., go there, take your kids,’ so I think that is what increased our numbers.”

The medical teams were prepared to deal with a wide variety of health concerns.

“Most of the conditions we have seen are typical sick call stuff,” Hardigan said.

“Some had respiratory complaints like coughs and colds. We have seen a lot of G.I. complaints; stomach pains, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. We have also seen a lot of skin complaints like basic rashes.”



**Dr. (Capt.) Jim Hardigan sticks out his tongue showing a young Iraqi boy what to do during a joint Medical Civil Action Program medical check-up in Karbala.**

Hardigan said there are limits to the care they can give.

“Scattered in there however, we have had some more serious problems, things we simply cannot address. For example, we had a patient show up with a CAT scan revealing what appeared to be a cystic mass on his right kidney. There is not much we can truly do,” Hardigan said.

This man, like so many Iraqis, faces a difficult challenge when in search of health care.

“From my experience,” Hardigan said, “that situation has been pretty typical; where you will receive partial treatment. Local Iraqi doctors will take a look at you, many times will do lab work, x-rays, cat scans, whatever they need, make a diagnosis and then say ‘ok you will need this treatment and it will cost this much.’ That is usually where things will stop.”

One major hurdle for the Iraqi healthcare system is the lack of medication and supplies, Hardigan said.

“(Patient’s) primary complaint was

(doctors) simply did not have enough vaccinations or medications to follow through with the treatment. They would write out (a prescription) on a piece of paper and give it to the patient, but then they were on their own.”

The MEDCAP team had their own challenges in the gathering of supplies. The Thai team brought pediatric medicine but supplies were limited.

“As a field aid station we are not supplied to do MEDCAPs,” Hardigan said. “But we were able to scrape together enough supplies and were helped by the Thais. Our own supply sergeant also worked hard to get us extra supplies.”

Hardigan admitted despite the challenges the mission was successful.

“For the vast majority of patients we saw we were able to help,” Hardigan said.

“I love treating Soldiers, but it was kind of nice to go out and start helping a different segment of the population.”



## Quote of the Day...

*"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*

-- Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-68), African-American reverend, civil rights leader



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Division put their M1 Abrams tank through the motions on a road in Baghdad. The tanks are capable of reaching speeds in excess of 40 miles per hour on improved terrain.

## Oddly Enough...

### Court Convicts Obscene Text Messenger

MOSCOW (Reuters) - A teen-ager who sent an obscene text message to 15,000 cell-phone users has become the first computer whiz kid in Russia to be convicted of sending "spam." The unnamed university student from the Urals city of Chelyabinsk hacked into one of Russia's biggest mobile phone operators and used a special program to send the message, Interfax news agency said. He was handed a one-year suspended sentence and ordered to pay a 3,000-rouble (around \$100) fine. A spokesman for the Section K branch of the Russian police which deals with hi-tech crimes said this was the first instance a spammer had been successfully prosecuted. Russia has gained notoriety for its large number of talented and often disaffected young computer experts, whose bedrooms are regularly suspected of spawning major viruses.

## Chaplain's Thought for the Day...

### Slow Me Down, Lord

Perhaps you would agree with me, that the one thing common to most people in our society is the pace of modern life. Surrounded by competing demands for time and attention, it is easy to lose track of the important things in the 'blur' of living. If this describes your life, then perhaps you can relate to the following prayer: "Slow me down, Lord. Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my soul. Steady my hurried pace amid the turmoil of the day, and enable me to 'lift my eyes unto the hills from where comes my help'. When confused and weary, remind me of who I am and whom I serve. Inspire me to hold fast to life's enduring values and enable me to look beyond the issues of the day to the promise of tomorrow. Remind me daily that it 'is not by might, nor by power, but by your Spirit' that I accomplish the tasks set out before me. Knowing that the race is not always to the swift, let me instead trust in your strength and be guided by your wisdom. In your name I pray, Amen." In slowing down, we find the time to develop the significant relationships in our lives. In slowing down, our lives become centered on people and not things; In slowing down, we encounter God and thus develop true wholeness for our bodies, minds, and souls.

## Today in History...

(Historynet.com)

**1767** Mexican Indians riot as Jesuit priests are ordered home.

**1857** Gustave Flaubert goes on trial for public immorality regarding his novel, Madame Bovary.

**1864** Union troops surrounding Petersburg, Virginia, begin building a mine tunnel underneath the Confederate lines.

**1868** The U.S. Congress enacts legislation granting an eight-hour day to workers employed by the federal government.

**1876** General George A. Custer and over 260 men of the Seventh Cavalry are wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne Indians at Little Big Horn in Montana.

**1903** Marie Curie announces her discovery of radium.

**1920** The Greeks take 8,000 Turkish prisoners in Smyrna.

**1941** Finland declares war on the Soviet Union.

**1946** Ho Chi Minh travels to France for talks on Vietnamese independence.

**1948** The Soviet Union tightens its blockade of Berlin by intercepting river barges heading for the city.

**1950** North Korea invades South Korea, beginning the Korean War.

**1964** President Lyndon Johnson orders 200 naval personnel to Mississippi to assist in finding three missing civil rights workers.

**1973** White House Counsel John Dean admits President Nixon took part in the Watergate cover-up.

**1986** Congress approves \$100 million in aid to the Contras fighting in Nicaragua.

# 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.

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2004				As of: Thursday, June 24, 2004 9:17:29 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	00:00
00:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS (NN)	00:30
01:00	SPORTS SPECIAL - NBA PRE-DRAFT SHOW	MLB - ATLANTA BRAVES @ FLORIDA MARLINS	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - TYLER TUCKER, I PRESUME	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT (NN)	01:00
01:30	SPORTS SPECIAL - NBA DRAFT		SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - SAILOR MOUTH / ARTIST UNKNOWN		CBS EVENING NEWS (NN)	01:30
02:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - ITCHY & SCRATCHYLAND	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - THE RING BEARMISS MURRAYS WEDDING	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN (NN)	02:00
02:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - NOT WITH MY SISTER, YOU DONT	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		02:30
03:00			THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - ZION	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES (NN)	03:00
04:00		ESPNEWS	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER SEVENTEEN	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR (NN)	04:00
04:30		ESPNEWS				04:30
05:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	CROCODILE HUNTER (TVG): - SLEEPING WITH THE CROCODILES	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS (NN)	BET NIGHTLY NEWS (NN)	05:00
05:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT (NN)	05:30
06:00	AUSSIE RULES FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	TOYOTA WORLD OF WILDLIFE (TVG): - NORTH AMERICA	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)	LARRY KING LIVE (NN)	06:00
06:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		06:25
06:30		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	JACK HANNA'S ANIMAL ADVENTURES (TVG): - BLACK BEAUTY RANCH			06:30
07:00	ESPNEWS	SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - OLDER AND FAR AWAY		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN (NN)	07:00
07:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		07:13
07:30	TOTALLY NASCAR					07:30
08:00	SPORTSCENTER	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - THE RING BEARMISS MURRAYS WEDDING	THE X-FILES (TV14): - MONDAY	HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - EVERYBODY LOVES MICKEY	PAULA ZAHN NOW (NN)	08:00
08:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		ROCKO'S MODERN LIFE (TVY): - BUCK A MATIC/ CANNED		08:30
09:00	COLLEGE BASEBALL - COLLEGE WORLD SERIES GM 14: CAL STATE FULLERTON VS SOUTH CAROLINA	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - TYLER TUCKER, I PRESUME	OZZY & DRIX (TVY7): - WHERE THERE'S SMOKE	NIGHTLINE (NN)	09:00
09:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - SAILOR MOUTH / ARTIST UNKNOWN	AS TOLD BY GINGER (TVY): - FOUTLEYS ON ICE (PT. 1)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	09:30
09:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				09:46
10:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - ITCHY & SCRATCHYLAND	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS (NN)	10:00
10:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - NOT WITH MY SISTER, YOU DONT	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)		10:30
10:36		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				10:36
11:00			THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - ZION	ESPNEWS	PRIMETIME (NN)	11:00
11:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				11:17
11:30				PACIFIC REPORT (NN)		11:30
12:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER SEVENTEEN	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - CATCHEM IF YOU CAN	THE O'REILLY FACTOR (NN)	12:00
12:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG): - BLOCK PARTY		12:30
13:00	TOTALLY NASCAR	TODAY (NN)	CROCODILE HUNTER (TVG): - SLEEPING WITH THE CROCODILES	THE APPRENTICE (TVPG): - TIT FOR TAT	GOOD MORNING AMERICA (NN)	13:00
13:30	ESPNEWS					13:30
14:00	MLB - PITTSBURGH PIRATES @ HOUSTON ASTROS		TOYOTA WORLD OF WILDLIFE (TVG): - NORTH AMERICA	ALIAS (TVPG): - FULL DISCLOSURE		14:00
14:30			JACK HANNA'S ANIMAL ADVENTURES (TVG): - BLACK BEAUTY RANCH			14:30
15:00		HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - EVERYBODY LOVES MICKEY	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - OLDER AND FAR AWAY	PACIFIC REPORT (NN)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	15:00
15:30		ROCKO'S MODERN LIFE (TVY): - BUCK A MATIC/ CANNED		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING (NN)	15:30
16:00		OZZY & DRIX (TVY7): - WHERE THERE'S SMOKE	THE X-FILES (TV14): - MONDAY		THE EARLY SHOW (NN)	16:00
16:30		AS TOLD BY GINGER (TVY): - FOUTLEYS ON ICE (PT. 1)		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - TYLER TUCKER, I PRESUME			17:00
17:30		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - SAILOR MOUTH / ARTIST UNKNOWN	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)		17:30
18:00	WIMBLEDON TENNIS TOURNAMENT - EARLY ROUND COVERAGE DAY 5	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - ITCHY & SCRATCHYLAND	HOT SHOTS! PART DEUX	FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)	18:00
18:30		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - NOT WITH MY SISTER, YOU DONT			18:30
19:00		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - CATCHEM IF YOU CAN	THE DEAD ZONE (TV14): - ZION		PRIMETIME (NN)	19:00
19:30		MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG): - BLOCK PARTY				19:30
19:45				WATERBOY		19:45
20:00		THE APPRENTICE (TVPG): - TIT FOR TAT	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER SEVENTEEN		FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)	20:00
21:00		ALIAS (TVPG): - FULL DISCLOSURE	CROCODILE HUNTER (TVG): - SLEEPING WITH THE CROCODILES		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	21:00
21:30				CINEMA SECRETS (TVPG): - DESTRUCTIVE FORCES	INSIDE POLITICS (NN)	21:30
22:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	TOYOTA WORLD OF WILDLIFE (TVG): - NORTH AMERICA	TODAY (NN)		22:00
22:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	JACK HANNA'S ANIMAL ADVENTURES (TVG): - BLACK BEAUTY RANCH		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	22:30
23:00	AROUND THE HORN		BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - OLDER AND FAR AWAY		LESTER HOLT LIVE (NN)	23:00
23:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				23:30