

## 16th Engineers help grade schools recover, rebuild

**Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Tony Sailer, 1AD PAO**  
KARBALA, Iraq – Years of neglect, looting and the recent violence have left several schools in Karbala run-down, damaged and unsafe. But with help from the some combat engineers many kids in Karbala will have a better environment in which to learn.

Alpha Company, 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Task Force 1st Armored Division has adopted four schools in Karbala and has provided more than \$126,000 for cleanup and repair of the damaged and run down facilities.

“We have agreements with three contractors who have all done excellent work,” 1st Lt. Rob McMahon, 2nd Platoon leader said. “It is surprising how quickly they got started and their progress is unbelievable.”

The new contracts were granted mid-June using Commander’s Emergency Relief Program funds and in just a few days, vast improvement to the school grounds and buildings was apparent.

“We are cleaning and painting the classrooms, repairing the plumbing in the bathrooms, replacing broken windows, and dealing with electrical problems,”



A Soldier from A Co. 16th Engineer Btn. watches over two Iraqi contractors as they help rebuild a school in Karbala. The goal of the project is to improve the standard of living for Karbala’s students.

McMahon said. “Looters had stripped most of the wiring out of the buildings, so that has been a big challenge to replace.”

Two schools are getting a full renovation and one will also have a new wall built around it.

The contractors are employing local labor and “on many levels it has a great effect, helping to jumpstart the local economy,” McMahon said. “Our overall goal was to improve as much as possible, and I feel that we have increased the standard of living for these kids probably by 200 percent.”

Alpha Company has had many missions while stationed in Karbala.

“Our unit was here for the

fighting,” McMahon said. “No people were in the streets due to the violence but now there is activity, people are out and about cleaning up their neighborhoods. We have seen vast improvements since then. There has been an amazing change here in the last two weeks.”

Many schools are closed for summer break, so workmen are using this time to repair holes in walls, removing rubble and waste, installing ceiling fans to improve air circulation.

“I am glad to be a part of all this,” McMahon said. “It improves the community and helps build support for the coalition.”



## Quote of the Day...

*"Of all the properties which belong to honorable men, not one is so highly prized as that of character."*

-- Henry Clay (1777-1852), American politician

## Oddly Enough...

### Another Heartwarming Family Story

LONDON (Reuters) - A British father who arranged for an armed gang to rob his drug-dealer son of cocaine worth 4.5 million pounds was jailed for 20 years Tuesday.

Martin Williams, 60, passed information to three underworld figures that his son Shane had 76 kilos of cocaine in a house in Sanderstead, south London.

"Your role was despicable," Judge Stephen Kramer at London's Old Bailey told the father. "You are a family man, a carpenter. Your motive was pure greed."

During the robbery in May 2003, a stun gun was used to shock Shane Williams, 36, while his friend, taxi driver Nicholas Smith, was hit over the head with a crowbar.

"You may think it was a perfect robbery, a victimless robbery," the jury heard. "Because what drug dealer is going to complain to the police about being robbed?"

But police were already watching the house and all six were arrested.

Shane Williams and Smith were jailed for 20 years for conspiracy to supply cocaine. The three armed robbers received sentences ranging from 18 years to life imprisonment.

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

### Under the Paint

A few years ago a man and his family visited a small antique store in Germany. They bought several interesting pieces to include a dough table. Used extensively in the last century, a dough table is a long table with a removable top. Bakers would place the dough to rise in the hollowed out legs after kneading it on the table surface. The store owner mentioned to the man that the table was over 150 years old and he had purchased it for a small price from a group of traveling gypsies. Although covered in layers of ugly, chipped paint, the dealer took the chance that the outer layer hid a valuable antique. And, when the antique dealer finally took the time to refinish the table, he discovered beneath the paint, beautiful cherry wood. Outwardly, due to the cheap paint, the table seemed to have little value. Yet, after careful restoration, its beauty was once more revealed to the world. In the same way, the Lord looks beyond our 'ugly paint' to see the beauty and potential within each of us. Despite the coats of cheap paint and wrongs we place on our lives, he sees through them and takes the time to patiently clean the 'paint off' our souls and restore us to service. You are of great value and beauty. Don't 'sell yourself short' because of a few bad choices or experiences. God sees within you the beauty of His creation and stands ready today to make you once more into a useful vessel for Kingdom work.

## Today in History...

(Historynet.com)

**1520** Montezuma II is murdered as Spanish conquistadors flee the Aztec capital of Tenochtilan during the night.

**1857** Charles Dickens reads from A Christmas Carol at St. Martin's Hall in London--his first public reading.

**1859** Jean Francois Gravelet aka Emile Blondin, a French daredevil, becomes the first man to walk across Niagra Falls on a tightrope.

**1908** A mysterious explosion, possibly the result of a meteorite, levels thousands of trees in the Tunguska region of Siberia with a force approaching twenty megatons.

**1934** Adolf Hitler orders the purge of his own party in the "Night of the Long Knives."

**1936** Margaret Mitchell's novel, Gone With the Wind, is published.

**1948** John Bardeen, Walter Brattain, and William Shockley demonstrate their invention, the transistor, for the first time.

**1960** Alfred Hitchcock's film, Psycho, opens.

**1971** Three Soviet cosmonauts die when their spacecraft depressurizes during reentry.



 **Get the 411!** 

**NEWEST PX CLOSING DATES!!!**

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.**

**CHANGE:** The BIAP(W) ADACG PX will close  
**10 JULY 2004**

[Reenlistment Bonus Incentives Draw to a Close, Be Sure to Get All That's Coming to You!](#)

**1. DEPLOYED REUP BONUS ENDS WHEN SOLDIER DEPARTS THEATER**

Reenlistment bonuses designated for soldiers assigned or attached to units in Afghanistan, Kuwait, or Iraq are only eligible to receive that specific location bonuses if they reenlist while in one of those locations. Once the soldier departs theater, they are no longer eligible for that specific tax free lump sum bonus designated for those areas.

**2. DEADLINE NEARS FOR RETROACTIVE REUP BONUS**

Soldiers between the ranks of specialist and staff sergeant, with 17 months to 10 years active service, who reenlisted between 18 March 2003 through September 18 2003, while assigned or attached to units deployed in Iraq, Kuwait, or Afghanistan may be eligible for a lump sum bonuses up to \$5000. Soldiers have until 30 June 2004 to contact their career counselor to see if they are eligible and to request the lump sum payment.



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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2004				As of: Wednesday, June 30, 2004 1:45:55 AM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	SPORTSCENTER (NN)				HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	00:00
00:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):		NBC NIGHTLY NEWS (NN)	00:30
01:00	MLB (NN) - BOSTON RED SOX @ NY YANKEES	WIMBLEDON TENNIS TOURNAMENT (NN) - THE COMPLETE WIMBLEDON	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - BIRTHDAY QUAKE	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT (NN)	01:00
01:30		TOTALLY NASCAR (NN)	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - THE ALGAE'S ALWAYS GREENER/ SPONGE GAURD ON DUTY		CBS EVENING NEWS (NN)	01:30
02:00		MLB (NN) - CHICAGO WHITE SOX @ MINNESOTA TWINS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BART'S GIRLFRIEND	BLUE'S CLUES (TVY): - STEVE GOES TO COLLEGE (PT. 3)	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN (NN)	02:00
02:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - CRUISIN'	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		02:30
03:00			SUPER MILLIONAIRE (TVG): - EPISODE 5	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES (NN)	03:00
04:00	MLB (NN) - ANAHEIM ANGELS @ OAKLAND ATHLETICS		ANDROMEDA (TVPG): - UNDER THE NIGHT (PT. 1)	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR (NN)	04:00
05:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 4	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS (NN)	BET NIGHTLY NEWS (NN)	05:00
05:30		ESPNEWS	LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - IGOR SIKORSKY	JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT (NN)	05:30
06:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - THE O.S.S.	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD (NN)	LARRY KING LIVE (NN)	06:00
06:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		06:25
06:30		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)				06:30
07:00	ESPNEWS (NN)	SESAME STREET	ROCKET GIBRALTAR		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN (NN)	07:00
07:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		07:13
07:30	TOTALLY NASCAR (NN)					07:30
08:00	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	BLUE'S CLUES (TVY): - STEVE GOES TO COLLEGE (PT. 3)		BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - QUEST, QUEST, QUEST!	PAULA ZAHN NOW (NN)	08:00
08:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - AND THEN THERE WERE TWO WHO INVITED THE BIRTHDAY BANDIT?		08:30
09:00	BASSMASTER ELITE 50 (NN)	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - BIRTHDAY QUAKE	POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - ICE!	NIGHTLINE (NN)	09:00
09:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - THE ALGAE'S ALWAYS GREENER/ SPONGE GAURD ON DUTY	LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - BORN FREE AND EQUAL	YOUR CORPS (NN)	09:30
09:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				09:46
10:00	MLB (NN) - SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS @ LOS ANGELES DODGERS		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BART'S GIRLFRIEND	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS (NN)	10:00
10:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - CRUISIN'	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)		10:30
10:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				10:35
11:00			SUPER MILLIONAIRE (TVG): - EPISODE 5	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK (NN)	11:00
11:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				11:17
11:30				PACIFIC REPORT (NN)		11:30
12:00		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	ANDROMEDA (TVPG): - UNDER THE NIGHT (PT. 1)	8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - OPPOSITES ATTRACT (PT. 2)	THE O'REILLY FACTOR (NN)	12:00
12:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - EASY RIDER		12:30
13:00	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	TODAY (NN)	MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 4	FEAR FACTOR (TV14): - FAMILY FEAR FACTOR (BOMBS)	GOOD MORNING AMERICA (NN)	13:00
13:30			LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - IGOR SIKORSKY			13:30
14:00	MLB (NN) - TEXAS RANGERS @ SEATTLE MARINERS		SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - THE O.S.S.	THE O.C. (TVPG): - THE TIES THAT BIND		14:00
14:30						14:30
15:00		BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - QUEST, QUEST, QUEST!	ROCKET GIBRALTAR		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	15:00
15:30		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - AND THEN THERE WERE TWO WHO INVITED THE BIRTHDAY BANDIT?		PACIFIC REPORT (NN)	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING (NN)	15:30
16:00		POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVY7): - ICE!		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	THE EARLY SHOW (NN)	16:00
16:30		LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - BORN FREE AND EQUAL				16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER (NN)	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - BIRTHDAY QUAKE	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		17:00
17:30		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - THE ALGAE'S ALWAYS GREENER/ SPONGE GAURD ON DUTY			17:30
18:00	ESPNEWS (NN)	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BART'S GIRLFRIEND	1776	FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)	18:00
18:30	USGA (NN) - U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - CRUISIN'			18:30
19:00	WIMBLEDON TENNIS TOURNAMENT (NN) - MEN'S QUARTERFINALS	8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - OPPOSITES ATTRACT (PT. 2)	SUPER MILLIONAIRE (TVG): - EPISODE 5		FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)	19:00
19:30		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - EASY RIDER				19:30
20:00		FEAR FACTOR (TV14): - FAMILY FEAR FACTOR (BOMBS)	ANDROMEDA (TVPG): - UNDER THE NIGHT (PT. 1)		FOX NEWS LIVE (NN)	20:00
20:30				FAMILY BLESSINGS		20:30
21:00			MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 4		YOUR CORPS (NN)	21:00
21:30		THE O.C. (TVPG): - THE TIES THAT BIND	LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - IGOR SIKORSKY		INSIDE POLITICS (NN)	21:30
22:00			SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - THE O.S.S.	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		22:00
22:30		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)		HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	HEADLINE NEWS (NN)	22:30
23:00	AROUND THE HORN (NN)	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	ROCKET GIBRALTAR	TODAY (NN)	LESTER HOLT LIVE (NN)	23:00
23:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION (NN)					23:30