

Soldiers, locals fix water pipe

SGT. NATALIE ROSTEK

3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — Soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, along with Concerned Local Citizens, an Iraqi Emergency Response Force from Wassit and local contractors, conducted an operation to fix a broken water pipe Dec. 5 in Vin Jan Village.

"The water pipe had been broken for about four or five days," said Capt. John Horning, Co. C commander. "That is their main source of clean drinking water. Without it, citizens might have to resort to boiling water they get out of the river and if that doesn't kill all the bacteria, they may get dysentery and other waterborne diseases. The water pipe is vital to the health of the community."

The mission began as Soldiers from Company E, 1-15th Inf. Regt., and Concerned Local Citizens moved down the route to Vin Jan Village in search of improvised ex-



Sgt. Timothy Kingston

Capt. John Horning talks to leaders of Vin Jan Village and the Concerned Local Citizens during an operation to fix a broken water pipe Dec. 5.

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Local leaders aim to 'put law back in Iraq'

SGT. 1ST CLASS KERENSA HARDY

3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

CAMP STRIKER — Throngs of Iraqi key political leaders gathered at the home of Abid Hassan Saloom in Sadr Yusufiyah Dec. 6 to discuss the future of Iraq.

The theme of the meeting was "Put the Law Back in Iraq" and it was at-

tended by a multitude of prominent community leaders, Iraqi Security Forces and Iraqi Army officials. Of note were Dr. Ahmed Chalabi, former leader of the Iraqi National Congress, Sheik Somar, Yusufiyah nahia council president, 4th Iraqi Army brigade commander Brig. Gen. Ali Jassim Mohammed Hassen Al-Frejee, Sheik Halal Al Hemdawni, as well as representatives

from the Mahmudiyah council and the chief of the Mahmudiyah Iraqi Police.

An estimated 1,000 leaders from various sectors listened to several speakers talk about what it will take to achieve a safe, secure Iraq and discuss other reconciliation issues and the rebuilding of Iraq.

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Surgeon General's Award given to DIVSURG

SPC. EMILY J. WILSONCROFT
EDITOR

For the second year in a row, a 3rd Infantry Division medical officer has earned the Surgeon General's Physician Recognition Award.

"It's a validation of all the things 3rd ID does as a whole, medically," said this year's recipient, division surgeon Lt. Col. Ned Appenzeller.

The award, which is given annually to medical officers who hold the rank of captain to lieutenant colonel, specifies that it is for those who have made "significant contributions to military medicine."

Last year's recipient was Maj. Christopher Warner, 3rd Inf. Div. deputy division surgeon. Before that, Appenzeller said, he didn't know when 3rd Inf. Div. was last given this particular honor.

"This division has gone a long way to improve medicine across the Army," he said. "For example, our post-deployment health assessments — every brigade participated in that, and now it's the standard across the Army."

He emphasized that the award was a reflection on the achievements of the entire division, not just his own.

"We've had great command support," Appenzeller said. "There's a great synergy here between the command staff and the medical staff here that I haven't seen anywhere else."

He said that the reason for the division's continued success in the Army medical corps is due to his team's willingness to share all of its experiences, both positive and negative, for the good of the whole.

"We had some training



Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Lt. Col. Ned Appenzeller and Maj. Christopher Warner have each been 3rd Inf. Div. recipients of the Surgeon General's Physician Recognition Award.

methods that were effective, and others that weren't," Appenzeller said. "We want to share everything we've learned."

The award, he added, should be a source of pride

not only to himself, but to all who played a part in the 3rd Inf. Div.'s medical accomplishments.

"It makes me feel privileged to be a part of this division," he said.

CLCs, Iraqi Army turn massive cache over to U.S. troops

SGT. 1ST CLASS KERENSA HARDY
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

CAMP STRIKER — A massive cache of mortar and artillery rounds, as well as 80 pounds of homemade explosives, were turned in to U. S. forces at Forward Operating Base Yusufiyah Dec. 6.

This was the third occurrence in as many days of local residents handing explosives over to the Iraqi Army who in turn gave it to American Soldiers for disposal.

The find included 36 rocket-propelled grenades, 45 cannon rounds, 16 sticks of dynamite, a trigger mechanism and pressure plate and additional homemade bomb-making materials.

The stash was turned in to Company C, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

"It is very promising to see the Concerned Local Citizens and Iraqi Army out there on the battlefield trying to get rid of the bad guys and the ammunition

to destroy U.S. Soldiers and innocent Iraqis," said Sgt. Michael Waters, Co. C, 3-187th Inf. Regt.

Two smaller caches were collected Dec. 3 in separate incidents.

"These guys are passionate about getting their country back to normalcy where the economy will be able to support men and women who want to go out to work to feed their families without fear," said Pfc. Joshua Turner, an infantryman with Co. C, 3-187th Inf. Regt.

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7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

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plosive devices and any other signs of insurgent activity. Once the route was cleared, Company C Soldiers and the Iraqi ERF escorted a local repair crew to the busted water pipe for repair.

During the operation, Company C reported receiving small arms fire and indirect fire aimed in their direction. The repairs were close to completion, so the crew continued, Horning said.

When the pipe was repaired, the ERF began safely escorting the local contractors out of the area, Horning said.

Horning believes the broken pipe was not accidental.

"The water pipe is on a dividing line separating Sunni extremists and an area lived in by Shia citizens," he said.

He is, however, satisfied that attacks have gone down significantly over the past few months. Even though they have received small arms fire twice while fixing the water pipe, Soldiers' presence and determination motivate the citizens of Vin Jan Village.



Sgt. Timothy Kingston

An Iraqi National Policeman pulls security while local contractors wait to fix a broken water pipe Dec. 5 in Vin Jan Village.

"This shows we are willing to fight to help protect them," Horning said. "It builds confidence and trust."

Horning has a positive outlook on the months ahead before the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team relinquishes command of their area of operation, expected to occur in June 2008.

"I'm hoping to get additional essential services to the area," he said. "Things like a sustainable trash system ... that is a direct impact on their health. I want to get a clinic built in Vin Jan Village, and a water well so they do not have to rely on the pipe and they can have their own fresh water."

LAW: Sadr Yusufiyah leaders meet to discuss safety, security in Iraq

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"Today's governance meeting provided a forum for local leadership to interact with the government of Iraq — an entity which has been noticeably absent within the area," said Capt. Ryan Bulger, intelligence officer for 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). The unit provided security for the event, along with the Iraqi Army.

As the keynote speaker, Chalabi ad-

ressed topics that weigh heavily on the people of Iraq. He said it is very important to get every displaced Iraqi back to his home.

Too many families have had to grieve the loss of their sons and Chalabi said security is a priority.

"We need everyone here to feel like he is a part of government; this is our government," he said, explaining that locals are key in securing Iraq's future. "The government must support the people."

Chalabi said he recognizes that ob-

taining the desired goals will be no easy feat, but said the people of Iraq deserve to have their requests answered.

Other issues addressed were the need for cell phone towers in the area, the importance of freedom of movement, the need to support the Iraqi Army and the attempt to complete the Yusufiyah Thermal Power Plant. Completion of the power plant would yield approximately 5,000 jobs.

Chalabi gave his word to take the concerns voiced at the meeting to "high-ranking officials in Baghdad."

Safety Thought of the Day

M-88 Safety

- Ensure that all lifting devices have been inspected and tested IAW TB 43 -0142, Safety Inspection and Testing of Lifting Devices.
- Ensure that Soldiers wear proper PPE, i.e. Kevlar, goggles, gloves.
- Avoid standing or working under a suspended load except when required.
- All personnel must stand clear of vehicle, at least double the distance

of the cable used in case the cable snaps.

- The 35-ton hook block weighs approximately 350 lbs. (159 kg). Use a suitable lifting device to lift or move.
- The 140-ton (127, 120 kg) snatch block weighs 209 lbs. (94.8 kg). Use auxiliary boom to stow and unstow. Use three people when lifting or moving.



USO tour to bring entertainment to troops

SPECIAL TO THE DOG FACE DAILY

ARLINGTON, Va. — Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston and a constellation of entertainers will soon travel by land, air and sea to bring the celebrated “2007 Hope and Freedom USO Tour” to servicemembers in the Persian Gulf.

The 14-day tour will span three countries and include performances by country rocker Keni Thomas, funnyman Vince Morris, sports commentator Leeann Tweeden, comedian Sheryl Underwood, country music singer Darryl Worley, the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders and the U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own.”

Entertaining troops for the sixth consecutive year, the “2007 Hope and Freedom USO Tour” will comprise a series of staged events, ranging from comedy skits and musical performances to audience sing-a-longs and autograph signings. Designed to boost troop morale, the tour will bring laughter and a break from day-to-day activities to thousands of Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Sailors stationed throughout the region. In addition to the variety show performances, the band of entertainers will also chat with troops, pose for pictures and express heartfelt gratitude.

“This is my third consecutive time touring on the Hope and Freedom USO Tour,” Thomas said. “And there’s nothing like it. Giving thanks, bringing smiles and performing songs for those who sacrifice their lives is an indescribable feeling and one of the highlights of my career.”

Sworn in as the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army in 2004, Preston serves as the Army Chief of Staff’s personal adviser on all enlisted-related matters. Dedicated to thanking servicemembers and letting them know military leaders are behind them, Preston has spearheaded the “Hope and Freedom USO Tour” for four years. Aiding in communicating the military’s story and honoring troops, the tour is an annual event.

A former Army Ranger and recipient of the Bronze Star for Valor, Thomas takes command of the stage with electrifying live performances that reach far beyond his hometown beginnings of Columbus, Georgia. One of today’s most respected new artists to enter the Nashville music scene, Thomas has



opened for such artists as Keith Urban and Brad Paisley, among others. Touring nationally with his band “Cornbread,” Thomas has just completed recording his new album “Gunslinger,” due out in early 2008. The album is a follow up to “Flags of our Fathers: A Soldier’s Story,” an album he recorded as a tribute to U.S. troops and their families. Both albums benefit the Hero Fund, established by Thomas through the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, to raise money for the college educations of children whose parents were lost in combat or training.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Morris speaks from the heart, giving him the most unique voice in comedy today. Armed with a slue of thought-provoking, dangerously funny and controversial comedic material, Morris challenges audiences to change the negative images and stereotypes they accept daily. He has appeared on such shows as B.E.T.’s “Comic View,” Comedy Central’s “Tough Crowd” and “Premium Blend” and HBO’s “Sex and The City,” among others.

A familiar face to sports enthusiasts around the country, Tweeden is a former host of the extreme sports show “54321” and a regular contributor on the “Best Damn Sports Show Period.” The daughter of an Air Force Vietnam veteran who served two tours of duty, Tweeden has participated in 10 USO tours, eight in the Middle East.

A former member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Underwood was the host of B.E.T.’s “Comic View” and “Holla,” a talk show she created and produced based loosely on Bill Maher’s “Politically Incorrect.” The winner of such comedy competitions as “Funniest Woman at the Improv” and “Old English Comedy Crunch,” she is a favorite

on HBO’s “All-Star Def Comedy Jam,” Showtime’s “Full-Frontal Comedy Show,” “Motown Live” and “Comics Unleashed with Byron Allen.” Named one of today’s hardest working comedians, Underwood has also starred in such films as “Bullworth,” “I Got the Hook Up” and “Beauty Shop” starring Queen Latifah.

Transformed by his 2002 USO visit to entertain troops in the Persian Gulf, country music singer/songwriter Worley wrote and recorded “Have You Forgotten,” one of today’s most inspiration records. An avid supporter of the U.S. military, Worley tours regularly with the USO and played a key role in organizing the annual American Freedom Festival to raise funds for veterans. Worley’s fifth and most recent album, “Here and Now,” was released in 2006 and features the emotionally-charged hit single, “I Just Came Back (From a War).”

Best known for their trend-setting dance routines, the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders are regarded as “America’s Sweethearts.” Having toured with the USO and entertained troops since 1979, the “2007 Hope and Freedom Tour” will mark the group’s 64th USO tour, the most number of tours by any entertainment group in USO history.

Historically, few events have left a more lasting positive emotional impression on servicemembers and their families than USO celebrity entertainment tours.

Since the USO’s inception in 1941, thousands of celebrities have selflessly lent their time and talents, traveling to military bases around the world to entertain the troops. USO tours are essential to fulfilling its mission of boosting troop morale, bringing them a small piece of home.