



The Mountain View



www.taskforcemountain.com

September 2, 2008

BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

Jiff Jaffa school gets four new classrooms



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis

Private 1st Class Taylor Wellendorf, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, attached to 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, hands an Iraqi boy a pencil Aug. 24 at the Nassarah School in southern Jiff Jaffa.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis

Private 1st Class Taylor Wellendorf, a native of Franklinton, N.C., and a member of the personal security detachment for 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf. Regt., attached to 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., hands an Iraqi boy some crayons at the Nassarah School. Wellendorf receives care packages from his mother full of school supplies and other gifts for children in Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Getchell, commander of 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf. Regt., attached to 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., talks with students at the Nassarah School.



MOUNTAIN 07 SENDS

Warriors of Task Force Mountain



We just completed 90 days since our transfer of authority. As the senior enlisted adviser, I feel honored and privileged to associate with such professional Soldiers that make up our Task Force.

During my travels, I have witnessed the technical and tactical performance of our Soldiers. It's clear our noncommissioned officers remain the backbone of our Army, capable of instilling the Warrior Ethos, discipline and the spirit to fight far better than ever before. NCOs must maintain this level of excellence by continuing to provide purpose, motivation and direction to our subordinates.

As our Army continues to evolve

during transformation, we must too. As NCOs, we must be visionaries with the ability to think deep and the energy to make appropriate change in support of our Army's transformation. This will ensure our Soldiers remain at the cutting edge, and our war fighting capability at peak performance.

Our Soldiers' level of commitment and sacrifice is a direct reflection of the NCOs that lead them. Be proud of them; be proud of yourselves; and remember, "The path of a Warrior is lifelong, and success will be achieved by simply staying on path."

Education Corner: It's school time, let's hit the books

SPC. SOPHIA LOPEZ
MND-C PAO



The Camp Victory Education Center, Building 27B, is available to service members from 8 a.m. to midnight every day to support educational needs and goals.

Services available:

-GT improvement classes: Helps raise your GT score through a three-week class which prepares service members for the Armed Forces Classification Test. The AFCT is used to re-evaluate in-service personnel who wish to improve their ASVAB scores to qualify for re-enlistment, an MOS change, warrant officer training, officer candidate school or Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Service members will need to contact the Education Center to find out when the next class is scheduled.

-CLEP/DANTES tests: Earn college credits by testing in different subjects. Each test has an hour and a half time limit.

Service members may register for up to two tests in one day. Results take six to eight weeks to return to the Education Center. Test schedules and forms for test enrollment are available at the front desk of the Education Center.

-Video Teleconference: gives service members a 15 minute block of time to connect them with their loved ones back home. Contact the Education Center to schedule a VTC.

Resources available:

-Computers: Service members have access to computers for research and test taking. There are links on AKO for practice tests and study material for CLEP and DANTES tests as well.

-Study guides: Service members are encouraged to use the study guides for upcoming tests, but these books are restricted to the premises.

For more information, please contact the Education Office at DSN 822-4725, or contact Staff Sgt. Jimmy Labas, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, at DSN 822-4640 or by email at jimmy.labas@iraq.centcom.mil.

THE Mountain View

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4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division
4th BCT, 3rd Infantry Division
7th Sustainment Brigade
41st Fires Brigade
354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
793rd Military Police Battalion
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
Task Force 49



Schools open for children in She Shon

Pfc. MICHAEL SCHUCH
2ND BCT, 1ST ARMD. DIV.



COP CASCHE SOUTH— A kindergarten and primary school opened in the She Shon area during ribbon-cutting ceremonies Aug. 21.

Soldiers from the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion helped local contractors renovate two schools in She Shon to ensure the children of the area have the opportunity to receive a formal education.

"We are very thankful this project is now complete," said Fatema Rhady, the headmistress of the kindergarten. "I hope that this will show Iraqi contractors that here, just like in America, they shouldn't be scared of anything by helping us. We are all just trying to help the children."

Participants cut the kindergarten's ribbon marking the school's opening. The school will begin classes this September. Children in the area received cookies, a special treat in celebration of the momentous day.

The school repairs took six weeks to complete. A local Iraqi contractor hired skilled citizens from surrounding towns to perform the work. This helped create jobs and increase the flow of money for the small urban village.

The school received new doors, windows, paint and remodeled bathrooms. The school boasts the only playground in the area, in addition to the numerous classrooms.

The children are put through two classes: a starter class, which introduces them to the educational system in slow, smooth steps, and a preparatory class, which ensures children are ready to move on to the grade school that follows.

Following the Kindergarten's opening, Soldiers from 415th CA Bn. made the local primary school their next stop.

The Maka al-Mukarama Primary School, run by head-

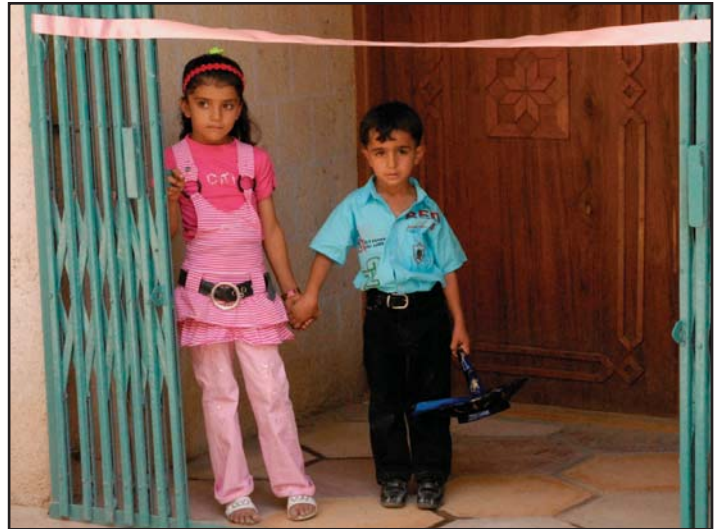


Photo by Pfc. Michael Schuch

Two small Iraqi children attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony to their kindergarten in She Shon Aug. 21.

master Mahamed Muhmod Hussein, received fresh paint, new doors and windows, remodeled bathrooms and minor structural repairs.

This two-story school has nearly two dozen classrooms and offices, a large courtyard and a court with soccer nets and basketball hoops.

The two remodeled and operational schools provide a significant advantage to the children of She Shon, further demonstrating the commitment of the Iraqi people, Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition forces to improve the health and welfare of the Iraqi children.



Photos by Spc. Josh LeCappelain

Iraqis, Coalition forces open new school in Baghdad Province

(Left) Iraqi children applaud the opening of their new school in Baghdad Province.

(Background) Empty desks await the newly remodeled arrival of Iraqi children at the Al Mutasim Primary School, which opened its doors Aug. 28.



DSTB Commander's Message to Soldiers:

Dear Soldiers,

The Task Force Mountain Equal Opportunity Office recently administered the TF Mountain Headquarters and Division Special Troops Battalion Command Climate Survey. On behalf of Maj. Gen. Oates, I want to thank all of you who took time to complete the survey. It was important to get a good snapshot of the unit, and I think we did that. More than 800 Soldiers, better than 80 percent of our assigned strength, participated.

The results of this survey provide leaders at every level of the organization a tool to assess the climate throughout the DSTB and Multi-National Division – Center Headquarters. It was great to hear the overwhelmingly positive comments in support of Mountain Time, housing conditions, the CG's command climate, mail delivery, morale VTCs and physical training facilities.

Command Sergeant Major Smoot and I personally appreciate all the constructive suggestions on how to improve the command as well. We heard (loud and clear) your concerns regarding the "costs" of being deployed: worries about family and the challenges of maintaining good communication. We also took note of the repeated mention of performance counseling, equal opportunity and career development as areas to improve.

Let's begin with sexual harassment, sexual assault, and discriminatory practices that violate the five protected categories of race, color, religion, national origin and gender. Each of these is a zero tolerance area. Together, we must do all we can to eliminate these types of behavior.

Wherever there are concerns, I ask that you please seek assistance through the chain of command. Take advantage of my open door policy; visit one of our great chaplains, the Inspector General, your company EO representative or the Equal Opportunity Office. We have also established a 'Comments Can' inside Honor Chapel and in the Division Operations Center should you prefer to remain anonymous.

Leaders at every level are challenged to engage often and communicate openly with our Soldiers. Set aside time over the next 30 days to hold sensing sessions in your sections, platoons and companies. During this time, I also ask that every Soldier and civilian in our ranks maintain high expectations of our leaders, of your comrades and of yourselves. Let's hold each other to the high standards of our Army Values.

Climb to Glory! Conquer the Mountain!

-Lt. Col. Steve Parker

THINK YOU'RE GOOD AT
MADDEN?
LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU DO
AGAINST THE PROS!



PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
ARE READY FOR BATTLE

"Pro vs. GI Joe", a nonprofit organization, invites 10th Mtn. Division gamers from the surrounding Philadelphia area, including Delaware and New Jersey, to go head-to-head against the Philadelphia Eagles in a heated battle of MADDEN NFL 09 via XBOX LIVE! If you think you have what it takes, consult your Chain of Command then contact LT Kevin Skindell @ kevin.skindell@iraq.centcom.mil or DSN 822-8111 for details.



* Prize Packs * Video Chats w/ Family * Giveaways * Meet the PROS *
www.provsgijoe.org

TUESDAY 16SEPT08

USO CENTER CAMP VA, KUWAIT



Points of contact to remember

IG Contact:

Sgt. 1st Class Lonnie Schultz at DSN 485-3990 or email lonnie.schultz@iraq.centcom.mil.

Located in trailer 51T2 between Task Force Mountain headquarters and the Division Special Troops Battalion motorpool.

EO Contacts:

Master Sgt. Edward Bowden, NCOIC, at DSN 822-7654 or email edward.bowden@iraq.centcom.mil

Lt. Col. Vance McLeod, Program Manager, at DSN 822-7653 or email vance.mcleod@iraq.centcom.mil

Located in trailer 51T2 between Task Force Mountain headquarters and the Division Special Troops Battalion motorpool. Representatives are available between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Chaplain Contacts:

Ch. (Maj.) Paul Ramsey, Family Life Chaplain, at DSN 822-8462 or email paul.d.ramsey@iraq.centcom.mil

Ch. (Capt.) Mike Jones, DSTB Chaplain, at DSN 822-8463.

Located across from Task Force Mountain headquarters.

Headline Round-up

Top News:

Nearly 2 million people from the Louisiana coast and many others from other Gulf Coast areas were evacuated as Hurricane Gustav barred down late Sunday. A few New Orleans' residents are riding out the storm along with aid workers, police and the National Guard.

Politics:

Members of the GOP at the Republican National Convention from Louisiana are torn between party duty and their families. Convention activities have been scaled down and put on hold until the threat of Gustav passes. President George Bush is in Texas ready to lend a hand in rescue efforts, and presidential candidate Sen. John McCain has chartered a jet to fly those delegates whose families are in harm's way home. McCain has also offered to fly family members of delegates to Minneapolis.

Sports News:

The Miami Dolphins have signed running back Ricky Williams for two more seasons in the NFL. They are hoping that he actually plays out his contract this time. At the moment, Williams is showing the kind of effort that once led the NFL in rushing in 2002 and won him the Heisman trophy in college at the University of Texas. Williams flunked five drug tests in 2002 and announced early retirement before coming back.

U.S. News:

For five years in the late 1960s and early 1970s the Zodiac killer had the U.S. on edge. The killer suddenly stopped killing and was never found. Now, the FBI says they may have the forensic evidence to solve the case. Dennis Kaufman, who provided the FBI with the evidence, thinks his deceased stepfather, Jack Tarrance, was the Zodiac.

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TO SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS, IDEAS AND
CONCERNS.**

Climb to Glory!

Quote of the Day

"Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them." — William Shakespeare

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from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to
yesterday's
puzzle:

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ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Outside

burr-reh