



# The Mountain View

www.taskforcemountain.com

September 3, 2008

## \$6.5 million bridge opens near Najaf



Photo by Maj. Anthony Campbell

Adil Abd al-Mahdi, vice president of Iraq, talks with visitors during a ribbon cutting ceremony for the \$6.5 million North Kufa Bridge near Najaf Aug. 28.



Photo by Maj. Anthony Campbell

Children from the area prepare to perform during a ribbon cutting ceremony for the \$6.5 million North Kufa Bridge near Najaf Aug. 28.

4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV. PAO

FOB KALSU— The vice president of Iraq, members of the Iraqi ministry and the governor of Najaf Province attended the opening of the North Kufa Bridge near Najaf Aug. 28.

The \$6.5 million bridge creates a bypass of the congested market area in downtown Kufa, which will result in business growth for the area as well as additional entry points for visiting the religious sites.

“This bridge shows the commitment by the Government of Iraq to build projects in poorer areas that were ignored by the former regime of Saddam,” said Adil Abd al-Mahdi, vice president of Iraq. “Projects like this bridge will help generate economic improvement in areas like Kufa. This bridge, the Imam Ali Bridge, is built near many important holy sites. Close to here is the Imam Ali Shrine and the Kufa Mosque. This bridge is a great addition to the area.”

“I would like to thank the United States for not only providing funds for this bridge project but for many other projects in Najaf,” said Najaf Province Governor Asad.

Funding for the bridge was made possible through U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division Project Partnership Agreement grants. An Iraqi contractor completed the bridge construction.

“This has been accomplished by Kufa, working with funds provided through a U.S. grant, and working with the Najaf Province government and the minister of housing and construction,” said Col. George Wright, with USACE Gulf Region Division.

“This bridge is a success and shows cooperation between not only the U.S. government, but cooperation between several levels of the Government of Iraq,” he added.

# “Iraq the Vote”

(Top) Avalanche, part of 10th Mountain Division Band, plays classic rock songs during the drive for voter registration and absentee ballot requests.

(Bottom) Specialist Michael Bogner, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and a native of Eastland, Texas, fills out an absentee ballot form Sept. 2 outside the Task Force Mountain Headquarters at Camp Victory. Specialist Janet Rigoogag, a native of Yap Island, Micronesia, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division, helps Soldiers register to vote, fill out the absentee ballots and find the mailing addresses for forms. The Soldiers in charge of voting assistance for the Multi-National Division-Center and TF Mountain organized this drive to encourage Soldiers to vote.



Photo by Spc. Tiffany Evans



Photo by Spc. Tiffany Evans

# Suwayrah students win ‘Quiz Bowl’

**SGT. 1ST CLASS JOE THOMPSON**  
41ST FIRES BDE. PAO

FOB DELTA— The final event of a two-week educational competition ended Aug. 30 in the U.S. Agency for International Development sponsored ‘Quiz Bowl’ in al-Kut.

“This event was a friendly competition held between teams from the different youth centers in Wasit province, promoting education during the summertime while school is out,” said Staff Sgt. Melissa Powell, of Philadelphia, team sergeant of the 353rd Civil Affairs Team.

The team from Suwayrah defeated a team from Numaniyah to win first place in the tournament, The Wasit Iraqi Police



Photo by Spc. Tiffany Dusterhoff

The Iraqi media interviews two members of the winning Suwayrah ‘Quiz Bowl’ team in al-Kut Aug 30.

and the 32nd Iraqi Brigade co-sponsored the event.

“This event is important to us because we provide the security for all students and teachers to have the opportunity to study and teach,” said Capt. Hayder Adnan Ali al-Saidy, Iraqi Police liaison to Coalition forces.

“It also shows the people in Wasit that the Iraqi Police view education very seriously, and we do our job to give time to the community so they can pursue education in the new Iraq,” added Hayder.

Each team was asked ten questions in the competition, eight in Arabic and two in English. Students had to respond in

**See QUIZ, page 3**

## THE Mountain View

*The Mountain View* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of *The Mountain View* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 10th Mountain Division. All editorial content of *The Mountain View* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Task Force Mountain Public Affairs Office.

### TASK FORCE MOUNTAIN PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Commanding General - MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL L. OATES

Command Sergeant Major - COMMAND SGT. MAJ. JAMES W. REDMORE

#### Editorial Staff

TF Mountain PAO — Lt. Col. Paul Swiergosz  
OIC, Command Information — 1st Lt. Julie Glaubach  
NCOIC — Master Sgt. Stephen Opet  
Managing Editor — Staff Sgt. Amber Emery  
Assignment Editor — Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret  
Copy Editor — Spc. Josh LeCappelain  
Editor/Design — Spc. Sophia Lopez  
Staff Writer — Spc. Tiffany Evans

#### Contributing Units

2nd Bde., 1st Armored Division  
3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Division (Air Assault)  
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

Media queries please contact TF Mountain Public Affairs at MND-Center\_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil



## QUIZ

### From previous page

place.

The topics for the questions included poetry, Iraqi history, anatomy, astronomy, physics and sports. Each team had one minute to correctly answer the question or use one of two passes, where they could skip the question for a different one.

the language in which the question was asked. The Suwayrah team answered eight of ten questions correctly, earning them first

“Youth centers from the different towns have different educational focuses, whether it is science and math, or Iraqi history and poetry,” explained Powell. “The ‘Quiz Bowl’ challenged the different youth centers in areas they are familiar with, as well as topics outside those areas.”

The Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team sponsored the prizes for the competition, which included digital cameras for first place, DVD players for second place, cell phones for third place and book bags for the remaining competitors.

# Task Force 49 Apaches aid Iraqi security progress

**SGT. DALE SWEETNAM**  
TF 49 PAO

BAGHDAD—The view from the sky indicates the tide in Iraq may be turning.

Soldiers of 4th Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment made the move from Camp Taji to Camp Stryker over a month ago. Major Parker Frawley, 4th Sqdn., 3rd Armd. Cav. Regt., operations officer, said the squadron is already seeing the difference U.S. forces are making across the country of Iraq.

In Camp Taji, 4-3 ACR was involved in an intense battle for Sadr City. The Soldiers fought daily to both defeat special groups in Sadr City and eliminate the indirect fire threat to Baghdad.

“Obviously, during that timeframe, the fight in Sadr City was a very kinetic fight,” Frawley said.

The unit moved to Camp Striker and became part of Multi-National Division - Center where the AH-64D Apache and UH-60 Black Hawk pilots are experiencing a different pace. In its new home, the squadron is part of Task Force 49, MND-C’s Combat Aviation Brigade.

Frawley said the IED threats and direct and indirect fire threats are fewer in MND-C. The aircraft that were once fighting constantly in a small geographic region are now responsible for a much larger area; they support ground forces by providing surveillance and reconnaissance.

“With the threat of these areas being lower and the ground guys focusing more on non-lethal operations, we of course, conduct fewer lethal operations as well,” he said.

“If you look at the big picture, the less (often) we have to shoot and destroy targets or kill insurgents indicates that we are getting closer to mission success in Iraq,” he said.

Frawley said the changing operational tempo in MND-C has also allowed the squadron to catch up on maintenance and give the pilots a break.



Courtesy Photo

**Soldiers of 4th Sqdn., 3rd Armd. Cav. Regt., perform basic maintenance on an AH-64D Apache. The improved security situation and ISF lead in operations in MND-C allows the squadron to catch up on maintenance and has given the pilots some much needed rest.**

Colonel Chandler C. Sherrell, the TF 49 commander added, “The changing nature of our attack and reconnaissance missions reflects a greater level of security among the people, a demonstrated capability of the Iraqi Police and Army, and a general improvement in the daily lives of the population. This would not be possible without the continued efforts of our ground partners to transition security to the Iraqis and aid in the economic development of their areas. These positive trends have allowed us to provide a greater degree of overwatch and a reduced level of direct action.”

This shift in focus for 4-3 ACR was recently highlighted by its involvement in the Aug. 16 celebration of the Birth of the 12th Imam, an important Muslim holiday that draws hundreds of thousands of Shia pilgrims to Karbala each year.

In previous years, daily reconnaissance patrols in the vicinity of Karbala

were necessary to provide surveillance of the crowds and early warning of any potential threats to the Iraqis participating in the pilgrimage.

This August, the squadron’s mission remained more of an overwatch, as Iraqi ground and air assets led the security efforts.

“Because of the progress of the Iraqis and their ability to handle their own internal affairs with minimal coalition support, the decision was made to minimize our presence around Karbala,” Frawley said.

“It bolsters the Iraqi’s confidence, not only the Iraqi security forces’ confidence, but the confidence of the Iraqi population in the security forces’ ability to do its job,” he added.

“It’s a success story,” he added “Any responsibilities we can hand over to the Iraqis that they can execute with a degree of success, gets us closer to mission completion here.”

---

**Staff Section Round-up**


---

## G-1 Corner: Battlefield Promotions

Soldiers in the rank of PV2 to sergeant are authorized a battlefield promotion for extraordinary performance of duties while serving in combat or during combat conditions, and a demonstrated ability to perform and excel at the next higher rank. This applies to all Soldiers serving in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to include Active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

The Battlefield Promotions Pilot is a one-year program set to expire April 1,

### Promoted to Specialist:

Pfc. Jason Bartlett  
 Pfc. Gustavo Blancozavala  
 Pfc. Howard Cable  
 Pfc. Nathaniel Codrington  
 Pfc. Kayla Giddins  
 Pfc. Jared Jenkins  
 Pfc. Jason Loyn  
 Pfc. Chanda Malone  
 Pfc. Katrina Martinez  
 Pfc. Robert Mata

2009. Soldiers must be assigned and functioning in a position of increased responsibility. Time in grade, time in service, promotion points and board appearance are not considered or required under this program. Soldiers under suspension of favorable actions are not eligible.

Soldiers are eligible for only one battlefield promotion to the noncommissioned officer ranks. Commanders will not offer Soldiers battlefield promotions in place of personal commen-

Pfc. Ryan Pere  
 Pfc. Benjamin Sanders  
 Pfc. Marc Skilinki  
 Pfc. Eldon Stone  
 Pfc. Joseph Torres  
 Pfc. Luke Wilson

### Promoted to Sergeant:

Spc. Nicholas Conway  
 Cpl. Bryce Dollman  
 Cpl. Benjamin Gallegos

dations or awards, nor is the program intended to recognize the bravery of a Soldier killed in battle.

Soldiers are recommended by their chain of command. Promotion allocations are distributed quarterly by Multi-National Corps – Iraq. The effective date of promotion is based on the date of approval by the MNC-I Commander.

The Soldiers selected for battlefield promotions for the third quarter are as follows:

Spc. Anthony Sage  
 Cpl. Macklen Griffin  
 Spc. Michael Stephens  
 Spc. Adrie True  
 Spc. Harold Vess

### Promoted to Staff Sergeant:

Sgt. Conrad Camp  
 Sgt. Vanessa Huff  
 Sgt. Robert Rollings  
 Sgt. Aaron Vanderpool

## Chaplain's Corner: Counting the Days

A part of any deployment is the process of counting days. It seems there are various opinions on this subject. Some choose not to count days because they say it makes time drag. Others could not care less. However, the individuals that intrigue me the most are the ones that seem to know exactly how many days they have been deployed and more importantly, how many days are left until they return home.

We all count days. This is an activity that has been a part of life for as long as I can remember. I remember when the end of a school year would draw near. Each day that passed was a day closer to no homework and fun filled summer days. Another example that will resonate with each of us is Basic Training or OCS. Need I say more? We have all counted days in some form or fashion.

This past week, I heard of a young lady planning a wedding while here in Iraq. She was quick to let me know precisely how many days were left until the wedding. Another NCO let me know how many days until he saw his family. Still yet another Soldier, with his wife's constant reminding, told of how many days until the birth of a child. Further, I'd be remiss not to mention the countless promotions recently. How many of these soldiers counted the days before receiving the increase in pay as well as responsibility? Again, we all count days; we just do it differently.

I'd like to follow Late Show host David Letterman's lead and offer the Top 10 reasons to count the days of

a deployment.

10. Counting days gives perspective of deployment length.

9. Counting days gives hope for future events.

8. Counting days gives a sense of accomplishment.

7. Counting days gives an opportunity to give thanks for perseverance.

6. Counting days gives endurance and resilience for the future.

5. Counting days gives an opportunity to pause and think about what we have learned.

4. Counting days gives An Appreciation for the people and things we miss the most.

3. Counting days gives The Opportunity to grow spiritually.

2. Counting days gives opportunity to analyze how well we are achieving goals.

1. Counting days is better than counting how many times we have walked to the dining facility.

The Psalmist, David, wrote a verse about counting days in Psalm 90:12: "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." It's OK to look back as well as ahead but never forget the most important day to count; today. Make today count for something, and you'll be wiser for doing so.

– Ch. (Capt.) Mike Jones

# Headline Round-up

## Iraq News:

The U.S. military handed over security responsibility to the Iraqis for Anbar Province in a ceremony in Ramadi, the provincial capital, Sept. 1. American troops will remain in the province to continue training the Iraqi Security Forces and will be on standby to help with any surges of violence. This is the 11th province to revert to Iraqi security control. At one time, it was a scene of some of the fiercest fighting in cities like Fallujah.

## U.S. News:

Hurricane Gustav spared New Orleans the damage Hurricane Katrina brought, but the mayor of New Orleans has asked that the evacuees stay where they are until damage can be assessed. Mayor Ray Nagin expects to give the all clear by the end of the week but warns that there was significant damage due to the high winds.

## Entertainment:

The 43rd annual Jerry Lewis Labor Day telethon raised a record \$65 million for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The 22-hour telethon raised \$1.2 million more than last year's event. Lewis also urged viewers to donate to the Salvation Army's emergency disaster service. The MDA is a nonprofit organization working to defeat muscular dystrophy and 40 other related diseases through research, support services and public health education.

## Odd News:

Michelle Secreto, a waitress at the Montarra Grill in Algonquin, Ill., received a \$1,000 tip last week after a couple asked her recommendation for a gluten-free meal. The identity of the couple is not known, but Secreto plans to use the money to send her 12-year-old daughter, Ashley, on a scholastic trip to Washington, D.C.

## Sports News:

Beach volleyball stars and Olympic gold medalist Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh lost for the first time in more than a year in the AVP Crocs Cup Shootout Aug. 31. Their winning streak was ended at 112 matches and 19 titles.

## Quote of the Day

*"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it is about learning to dance in the rain..." – Author Unknown*

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY?



Photo by Spc. Sophia Lopez

"Thanksgiving because of all the food," said Staff Sgt. Josh Franklin, of Marble Hill, Mo., military working dog program manager, provost marshal office, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division.



Photo by Spc. Tiffany Evans

"Halloween is my favorite holiday because it's also my birthday," said Sgt. John Sullivan, of Fairfax, Va., 63rd Ordnance, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division.

S  
u  
d  
o  
k  
u

		3	8		2		6	
4	6			7	1			
	9	1		6	3		4	7
	3	5						9
8	2	7		5				
							7	
	4	2	6			7		
				2			8	4
5	8						3	

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle:

8	6	2	3	1	5	9	4	7
9	7	1	8	2	4	6	3	5
5	4	3	6	7	9	8	1	2
4	2	5	7	9	6	1	8	3
6	3	9	1	8	2	5	7	4
7	1	8	5	4	3	2	6	9
1	5	7	9	3	8	4	2	6
3	9	4	2	6	1	7	5	8
2	8	6	4	5	7	3	9	1

## ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Distance

meh-sah-feh