

Dragons assess Twin Schools project

By Pfc. Adam Halleck
1st BCT PAO

BAGHDAD — The troopers of 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division understand that rebuilding the infrastructure of Iraq is mission number one.

In order to improve the quality of education in their area, the “Dragons” Soldiers regularly check on the progress of their public works projects to ensure all deadlines and standards are met. Providing ample education to the children of Iraq has become an objective of great importance for U.S. forces and the Government of Iraq.

“If we could educate the children now, the future of Iraq can be solidified,” explained Whitewater, Wis., native, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien, the battalion’s

civil capacity and essential services officer. “With their education they can provide opportunities to create an independent future for Iraq.”

Lien’s mission is to evaluate the construction progress of two schools. It is estimated that the two schools will educate over twelve-hundred students north of Baghdad.

As Lien walked the halls of the first school, his disappointment was evident. The two schools are already a year behind schedule; one reason why Lien was assigned to oversee the progress. In the week since his last visit, little work has been completed and the construction superintendent was not at the construction site.

“I told him to sweep these halls and make sure that the electricity is working,” explained Lien as he walked through rubble-filled

rooms at the first school. “At this point I am not happy about what I’ve seen. I can only hope that the second school is better.”

As Lien proceeded to the next school, which was only a few hundred yards away, he clutched a checklist of building requirements outlined by the Government of Iraq’s Ministry of Education. If the building meets all of the requirements on the list, the MoE will provide teachers, essential furniture, and supplies to make the school operational. Minutes after Lien arrived at the second school it became obvious that he was in better spirits.

“We got water!” shouted Lien as he and his counterpart, Cambridge, Mass., native Staff Sgt. Carlos Madden, a civil affairs team leader, tested an outdoor water faucet at the school.

“They got the water working, hopefully the electricity is working inside as well,” added Lien as he enters the school’s hallway.

When they walked into the second school it was obvious that Lien and his team had made progress in this project. Spotless-tiled hallways led to classrooms that were covered in fresh paint, while lighting fixtures and power outlets were emplaced and actually worked.

“I must say that I am impressed with this school at this point,” said Lien. “If both of these schools had to open today, I can honestly say they could. Although the first school would be a scramble to clean up, it could be opened to educate the kids.”

Lien and his team are happy to deal with the overwhelming



Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck

Staff Sgt. Carlos Madden (left), and Whitewater, Wis., native, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien discover running water as they open water faucets outside of the Twin Schools public works project.

number of hours they’ve invested in this project; provided the final product meets the standards of the battalion and the MoE.

“A lot of the time when we visit our projects we have to ride the contractors to do it to our standard,” said Madden. “Once our projects are complete and we can offer the people the essential services though, it’s all worth our frustration.”

The contractors have assured Lien and his team that the Twin Schools project will be complete by the end of September. Lien and the “Dragons” will continue to monitor progress in order to ensure the children of the surrounding area of the small village north of Baghdad have the opportunity to receive education they deserve.



Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO

Whitewater, Wis., native, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien (left), the battalion’s civil capacity and essential services officer, reviews his checklist with Fairfax, Va., native Maj. Robert Hensley, the battalion executive officer, both assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd FAR, 1st BCT.

Paratroopers, ISF in Salman Pak

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Alex Licea
3rd BCT PAO



SALMAN PAK, Iraq — Paratroopers assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division inspect an abandoned car along side a neighborhood road during a combined foot patrol, Sept. 13.



Capt. Dallas Cheatham, of Fayetteville, N.C. says farewell as he shakes hands with a community leader during a combined foot patrol, Sept. 13, in the town of Salman Pak, Iraq, located 30 miles southeast of Baghdad. U.S. and Iraqi forces conducted a presence patrol in a local neighborhood in order to assess any concerns the area's residents may have had.



An Iraqi Army Soldier uses a fire extinguisher to put out a fire after a local resident alerted the combined forces of an electrical fire in an unoccupied home during a combined foot patrol.



A young Iraqi boy looks over a wall as Paratroopers and their Iraqi Army partners visit a local school.



1st Lt. Jeffrey Wismann, of Louisville, Ky., speaks to an Iraqi boy during a combined foot patrol, Sept. 13, in the town of Salman Pak.

U.S. partnership aids Iraqi dairy farmers

By Spc. Jon Soles
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — Good nutrition is one of the building blocks of a healthy nation, and many Iraqi farmers are taking advantage of the Iraq Ministry of Agriculture's bovine artificial insemination program to breed better dairy cows.

A team of civil affairs Soldiers and veterinarian experts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture visited the University of Baghdad's College of Agriculture, Sept. 13 to assess a bovine artificial insemination facility and advise the Iraqi technicians responsible for helping breed the nation's dairy cows.

Maj. Marshall Kohr, a civil affairs officer assigned to the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, said the facility takes semen from 25 Holstein bulls, freezes it and then distributes it to farmers through six stations in Baghdad. Kohr and the USDA advisors assessed the facility to determine how they can best help the artificial insemination program.

"They are producing the semen and they are distributing it and they're doing a good job with that," said Kohr, a native of Gillette, Wyo. "Right now they need more training of artificial insemination technicians in the field."

The Holstein bulls, a breed known for their dairy production, were donated by the government of Australia in 2004. Fifty-five people are employed at the facility — ranging from technicians in white coats to farm workers in rubber boots that feed and take care of the animals. But the jobs provided by the Iraq Ministry of Agriculture are only a small benefit for the Iraqi people, according to Kohr.

"Indirectly, this benefits the whole country," said Kohr. "This is your source of milk for the whole nation. Milk is an extremely important source of protein, especially for a young country."

Once the semen is extracted, it is brought to the laboratory

where it is put into straws and frozen.

The semen is then taken to the six stations in the area where farmers bring their female cows for artificial insemination.

"You need to have calves to get milk and you need to get your cows pregnant," said Kohr. "What they're asking the farmer to do is when the cow is ready to breed, asking the farmer to bring the cow to one of these stations, at which time the artificial insemination technicians will inseminate the cow and get her pregnant."

But what the College of Agriculture needs more than bulls or equipment is training for its technicians, according to Jessica McCoy, a veterinarian who is the Ministry Advisor for Animal Health & Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture. McCoy also met with top college officials to discuss the facility's needs.

"I told them 'We are not here to give you equipment, we're not here to buy you stuff, we are here to help provide training,'" said McCoy. "They were quite pleased with that and they wanted to have some people go from the training facility to the United States, perhaps, to become trainers for future dairy inseminators or future people to work in the artificial insemination facility."

Helping to train the Iraqi technicians, who in turn can help educate farmers about breeding good dairy cows, is the core mission of the USDA and the civil affairs team, said McCoy.

"One of the things we want to assist them to do is to develop training programs for the people they work with and also for the farmers to promote the utility and the economic advantage of having a good breeding program," said McCoy, a native of Wellesley, Mass. "You don't just want semen from bulls whose parents had good dairy production. You may want good feet, good back confirmation or a broad chest."

By assisting Iraqi farmers breed cows with better milk-producing traits, U.S. forces and the

USDA are helping produce more protein nourishment, which in turn will help build a stronger, healthier Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles, MND-B PAO

Maj. Marshall Kohr, a civil affairs officer assigned to the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, based in Southfield, Mich., peers into a freezer used for storing bovine semen at the University of Baghdad's College of Agriculture, Sept. 13. Kohr and four members of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service visited the college's artificial insemination facility as part of an initial assessment. Semen collected from bulls at the facility is distributed to Iraqi farmers who want to breed good dairy cows.

On This Day In History

September 17, 1976

Space Shuttle unveiled

On September 17, 1976, NASA publicly unveils its first space shuttle, the Enterprise, during a ceremony in Palmdale, California. Development of the aircraft-like spacecraft cost almost \$10 billion and took nearly a decade. In 1977, the Enterprise became the first space shuttle to fly freely when it was lifted to a height of 25,000 feet by a Boeing 747 airplane and then released, gliding back to Edwards Air Force Base on its own accord.

Regular flights of the space shuttle began on April 12, 1981, with the launching of Columbia from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Launched by two solid-rocket boosters and an external tank, only the aircraft-like shuttle entered into orbit around Earth. When the two-day mission was completed, the shuttle fired engines to reduce speed and, after descending through the atmosphere, landed like a glider at California's Edwards Air Force Base.

Early shuttles took satellite equipment into space and carried out various scientific experiments. On January 28, 1986, NASA and the space shuttle program suffered a major setback when the Challenger exploded 74 seconds after takeoff and all seven people aboard were killed.

In September 1988, space shuttle flights resumed with the successful launching of the Discovery. Since then, the space shuttle has carried out numerous important missions, such as the repair and maintenance of the Hubble Space Telescope and the construction and manning of the International Space Station.

A tragedy in space again rocked the nation on February 1, 2003, when Columbia, on its 28th mission, disintegrated during re-entry of the earth's atmosphere. All seven astronauts aboard were killed. In the aftermath, the space-shuttle program was grounded until Discovery returned to space in July 2005, amid concerns that the problems that had downed Columbia had not yet been fully solved.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Alex Licea, 3rd BCT PAO

SALMAN PAK, Iraq — Spc. Jonathan "Tito" Taylor, of Los Angeles, leans against a rock wall as an Iraqi girl overlooks his shoulder during a combined foot patrol, Sept. 13 in the town of Salman Pak, Iraq, located 30 miles southeast of Baghdad.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

If tapped, a Chuck Norris roundhouse kick could power the country of Australia for 44 minutes.

Come Join MND-B for a celebration of Hispanic Cultures...



Date: 9 Oct 09
Location: MWR Field House
Time: 1900 hrs

Quote For Today

“The greatest truths are the simplest, and so are the greatest men.”

— Julius C. Hare —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
96° F | 80° F



Tomorrow
98° F | 71° F



Saturday
98° F | 77° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

Which Labor leader went to dinner at a Detroit restaurant on July 30, 1975, and was never seen again?

Last Issue's Answer: Gutenberg Bible

Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — The Cav Round-Up is a three-minute radio newscast from Baghdad covering military units and events across Multi-National Division — Baghdad.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 123 was produced by Sgt Erik Fardette, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

The July 31 newscast includes the following two stories:

1. Storing good relationships with Iraq's children.

Abu Ghraib celebrated the opening of a school supply warehouse. The project is a great step in developing schools in the area. The school supply warehouse provides a good start to a new school year.

2. Training academy helps National Police.

The academy teaches National

Police new things they will be able to take back to their units and help make improvements. The trust and respect the National police have earned is because of the training they have received at the academy.

NIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

SIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

Check out more news at the 1st Cavalry Division's homepage:

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

Trigger's Teasers

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday's Answers

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

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



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