

New school supplies in Mahmudiyah

By Sgt. Jon Soles
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — About 400 Iraqi school children have more school supplies for the classroom, thanks to a visit from Soldiers of the North Carolina National Guard.

Soldiers of Company B, 120th Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team teamed up with Civil Affairs Team 724 to deliver the supplies at the al-Andules primary school in Mahmudiyah, here, Nov. 2.

The drop was large enough to require a trailer to haul the school supplies; donated from individuals and groups in the United States. Staff Sgt. James Heim, a civil affairs non-commissioned officer from Chicago, said the

pencils, pens, crayons and notebooks will help the education of an estimated 400 students.

“Obviously, education is very important in this area,” said Heim. “Keeping these kids in school keeps them off the street and less likely to become insurgents in the future.”

Heim said the donation was coordinated through a local sheikh who wanted to help the school. Iraqi Army Soldiers passed out the supplies in the school yard while American Soldiers helped move the boxes of supplies to the yard and pull security.

“We try to put an Iraqi face on it so it builds more pride in the country,” said Heim. “It helps build relationships in the area.”

Aside from the scholastic benefits, seeing the children line up to receive the supplies was enough to make the mission seem worthwhile to many of the Soldiers. It was also a chance for the Iraqi Army to take the lead in a humanitarian mission.

“What makes it special is that the Iraqi Army is heading this up,” said Sgt. Maj. Gary Fry of Hubert, N.C. “It’s good for [the children] to see the IA doing this so they develop a trust in their government.”

Fry, the operations sergeant major for the 120th CAB, 30th HBCT, walked around the school yard passing out pencils to small, expectant small hands, while Spc. Blake Haney passed out stuffed animals to the children.



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles

Spc. Blake Haney (left), and Pfc. Kim Uy, shake hands with Iraqi children after passing out stuffed animals at the al-Andules primary school in Mahmudiyah, here, Nov. 2.

Haney said he enjoys missions that allow Soldiers to help the Iraqi people.

“I get to interact with the people of Iraq instead of just passing them by,” said Haney, from Mt. Pleasant, N.C. “It really opens my eyes to the shortages of Iraq and it warms my heart knowing we can help them.”

By supporting a school and donating tools for learning, the Soldiers of the 120th CAB, 30th HBCT are helping Iraq’s future by fostering conditions for well-educated children who will continue to help Iraq gain more self-sufficiency.



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles

Staff Sgt. James Heim (left), of Chicago, and an Iraqi soldier unload a box of school supplies from a trailer at al-Andules primary school in Mahmudiyah, here, Nov. 2.

Making new friends in Baghdad

Photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell, MND-B PAO



BAGHDAD – First Lt. Mike Slapik (left), an infantry platoon leader from assigned to Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, gives a pen to a little girl as a gift of friendship while Pvt. Steven Gamble (center left), an infantry radioman looks on during a joint patrol in northwestern Baghdad, Nov. 3.



An Iraqi child smiles and gives a high-five to Spc. Eric Marquez, an infantryman assigned to Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, during a short break in a joint patrol of the area in northwestern Baghdad, Nov. 3.

Father and son deploy with "First Team"

By Sgt. Alun Thomas
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Many Soldiers, past and present, have followed their father's footsteps and joined the Army, keeping a tradition of service intact through the decades.

Few, however, can say they have served alongside their father in a combat environment.

Pfc. Alfonzo Branch Jr. is one of these few, as he and his father, Sgt. 1st Class Alfonzo Branch, find themselves stationed together, here, both with the 1st Cavalry Division and far removed from their hometown of Philadelphia.

Branch, the first sergeant for Company E, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cav. Division, said the Army was an escape from the inner city streets of Philadelphia, helping him become a role model for his son.

"I grew up right in the heart of Philadelphia, so in that environment there's a lot of drugs and all types of things for a child to get involved in that can cause their

life to come to a screeching halt," Branch said. "It's a constant struggle and a lot of the kids I grew up with are still there."

To escape falling into this lifestyle, Branch said the military was his way out.

"I wanted something better for my life and after seeing it all with my own eyes it didn't appeal to me and I had to get out of there," Branch said.

Branch joined the Army and made it a career and not wanting his son to fall into any traps, recommended it to him as an alternative to the city streets.

"I showed him a lot of things the Army offered. I let him see that I was able to buy a house and I was able to afford a car," Branch said. "I was also a drill sergeant so I could say, 'Hey, this is what to expect when you come inside.'"

Branch Jr., a radio operator maintainer for Company B, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div., said he was convinced and signed up, although he was dismayed to find he was put on

orders for Alaska as his first duty station.

"I didn't know what to expect ... all I could think of was being freezing cold," Branch Jr. said. "I had Fort Wainwright, so I called my father, he pulled some strings and I ended up coming to the Cav."

Soon after arriving at Fort Hood, Branch Jr. deployed for the first time and his father followed several months later, which he said raised his morale.

"It was comforting," Branch Jr. said. "Once he got here I could go visit him and talk about home. It's better because he's someone I can relate to and we've been through the same things."

The elder Branch said the deployment has been a series of firsts for him, giving Operation Iraqi Freedom added meaning.

"This is my first deployment, with my first born and I'm a first sergeant in 'First Attack.' All of these firsts mean something ... it's like a blessing," Branch said. "All of the time that I've missed with my son, I can't make it all up.

But this time right here is critical. I can do something about it and I'm bonding with my son, my own flesh and blood."

Branch Jr. said although his father was gone much of the time when he was young, he always knew he was there for him.

"I don't really think about the time that he wasn't there," Branch Jr. said. "He did what he had to do; he provided for us and put a roof over our heads for me and my little sister."

Branch however is thankful for the time together and said this is an ideal time to be deployed.

"What better time, what better place and what better circumstances to deploy and be in combat than with your father?" Branch said. "We're side by side, and we're fighting and living together in the same fight and making history."

Although their work schedules vary, Branch Jr. said he makes the most of his time with his father.

"It's hard for me to get down to see him, but when I do we go the gym, we'll play games and talk," Branch Jr. said. "It gives me a boost of confidence knowing he's down the road."

Branch said being able to do these things with his son while deployed is already one of the fondest memories of his Army career.

"This by far will be the best memory that I can sit down and tell my grandkids about," Branch said. "I was a first sergeant in combat and had the opportunity to lead Soldiers in combat."

"Then to have my own son in combat with me and give him all the fruits that I've learned throughout the years in the military and look at him not only as a son but a Soldier, is one of the greatest things in the world," he added.

"It will be something that I take with me the rest of my life," Branch said.



Photo by Sgt Alun Thomas

Pfc. Alfonzo Branch Jr. (left), stands next to his father, Sgt. 1st Class Alfonzo Branch, at Camp Taji, Iraq. Both father and son are on their first deployments and stationed together, here

On This Day In History

Jeannette Rankin becomes first U.S. congress-woman

On this day in 1916, Montana suffragist Jeannette Rankin is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She is the first woman in the history of the nation to win a seat in the federal Congress.

Born and raised on a ranch near Missoula, Montana, Rankin was the daughter of progressive parents who encouraged her to think beyond the narrow sphere of opportunities generally permitted to women of the early 20th century. After graduating from the University of Montana and the New York School of Philanthropy, Rankin worked briefly as a social worker before becoming active in the national effort to win women the vote. In 1914, her efforts brought her back to Montana, where she believed pioneer conditions had created greater respect for women's work and abilities, making it somewhat easier to convince men to grant them the right to vote. Indeed, other western states like Wyoming and Colorado had already approved women's suffrage years before, and Rankin's leadership helped Montana join them in 1914.

With the vote for women secured, Rankin put Montana's new political dynamics to the test. She ran for one of Montana's two seats in Congress as a Progressive Republican in 1916. With strong support from women and men alike, Rankin became the first woman in history elected to that body. When she traveled to Washington, D.C., the next year, the eyes of the nation watched to see if a woman could handle the responsibilities of high office. Rankin soon proved she could, but she also demonstrated that she would not betray her own strongly held convictions for political expediency. A dedicated pacifist, Rankin's first vote as a U.S. congresswoman was against U.S. entry into World War I. Many supported her courageous stand, though others claimed her vote showed that women were incapable of shouldering the difficult burdens of national leadership--despite the fact that 55 men had also voted against the war.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

A picture is worth a thousand words. A Chuck Norris is worth 1 billion words.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div

CAMP TAJI, Iraq—Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Huggins (right), the command sergeant major of the 4th Brigade Raiders congratulates Lt. Col. Michael Lawrence, the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment's commander during a ceremony, here, Oct. 29.



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Quote For Today

“Determination gives you the resolve to keep going in spite of the roadblocks that lay before you.”

— Denis Waitley —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
89° F | 69° F



Tomorrow
85° F | 62° F



Monday
90° F | 66° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What was the name of the controversial herbicide used by the United States during the Vietnam War to defoliate jungles?

Last Issue's Answer: LYNDON BAINES / LADY BIRD / LUCY BAINES / LINDA BIRD

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 # 193 was produced by SGT Ashley Anderson, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the fol-

lowing stories:

1. Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st BCT help train Iraqi Security Forces at the Wolf Academy. Interview with SSG Michael Waddell, 1-7 Cav.

This academy trains Iraqi Security Forces on basic combat skills. Staff Sgt. Waddell said, “Academy's like this are going to move Iraqi Security forces to the front.

2. Iraqi and U.S. troops who find unexploded ordinance throughout Baghdad give them a proper burial. Story from the field by SSG Josh Edson, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

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

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

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



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