

Secondary school opens in Khargulia

Coalition, Iraqi forces provide hundreds of students with place to get education

SPC. BEN HUTTO
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

COP CASHE – More than 80 people attended the opening of a new secondary school in Khargulia, a small town east of Baghdad, March 23.

Civic leaders, tribal sheikhs, members of the Sons of Iraq, National Police and leaders from 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment were all present to celebrate the school opening.

“We have all come together to celebrate this special occasion,” said Abu Amash, leader of the SoI in Khargulia. “We have had schools before, but not a secondary school. This is truly a special moment.”

Amash thanked Iraqi Security Forces and the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team for their efforts in securing Khargulia from extremist forces that controlled the area almost a year ago.

“We thank the American troops and the Iraqi policemen for making this possible,” he said. “The security we

have now would not have been possible without you. Students in this area will thank you for years to come.”

Students held a small ceremony to commemorate the occasion and raised the Iraqi flag in the middle of the courtyard.

Capt. Troy Thomas, from Litchfield, Minn., commander of Troop A, 3-1 Cav. Regt., spoke during the ceremony and expressed how honored he felt to help open the school.

Thomas has worked closely with local leaders to bring security and civil programs to Khargulia. He congratulated ISF leaders and the SoI on their hard work to make the area secure. He said it was hard work that made the school opening possible after Amash and local leaders asked for help. A project funded by the Commander’s Emergency Response Program revitalized the abandoned school, adding three classrooms, three offices and a bathroom.

“I have made a lot of friends in this area,” Thomas said. “I hope you all will remember what my Soldiers and I have done here for a long time after we have gone.”

“I know it has been the dream of the people of this area to have a secondary

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Spc. Ben Hutto

A female student celebrates during a ceremony to open the new secondary school in Khargulia, a small town east of Baghdad, March 23.

Programs bring more engineers to Wasit

SGT. 1ST CLASS STACY NILES
214TH FB

FOB DELTA – As the Government of Iraq works to build capacity, increasing the number of engineers is essential to design, contract, construct and maintain the country’s infrastructure.

Roberto Bran, the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team’s engineer development program manager, said engi-

neers are vital to executing projects.

“None of this will occur if there is no one to plan and design the infrastructure,” Bran said.

Wasit’s need for engineers comes in hand with an increase in the provincial government’s budget. While the increase allows the provincial government to expand the number of new projects, it may put a strain on the limited number of engineers. The province

currently has close to 1,500 registered engineers of which 200-300 are female.

To address the potential shortage, the PRT, in coordination with the Wasit Resident Engineer Office, the El Salvadoran Cuscatlán Battalion X, the 214th Fires Brigade, and private and public sector Iraqi engineers, devel-

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oped a program to improve the quality of current projects and boost the number of qualified engineers in the province.

The program's aim is strengthening the Engineering College of Wasit University and bolstering the Wasit Engineers Union.

Brand said the focus is on professional development programs targeting mid-career professionals and taught by the faculty of the Engineering College.

Six courses have been taught to date and 36 more are planned, said Bran.

Topics range from solid waste management, to hydraulic structures to structural analysis and design. The courses accommodate 20 students and are open to GoI and private sector engineers.

The PRT is funding four laboratories and classrooms at the Wasit Engineering College at a cost of about \$2.5 million. The laboratories will accommodate 25 students while the classrooms will hold 60 students, said Bran. The new construction will feature a computer lab, a survey lab, a soil lab and an asphalt lab.

For students, a major concern is unemployment. The students say it is hard to find jobs because most jobs require experience, something they don't have.

Towards that end, an internship program is planned for the engineering college. The program will offer paid and unpaid opportunities with contractors implementing the Commander's Emergency Response Program and Economic Support Fund construction projects. Students will also work on Civil Military Cooperation and Gulf Regional South Corps of Engineers projects.

Also planned is an exchange program with academic and professional institutions abroad to establish long-term relationships between the engineering college and academic institutions in the United States.

Dr. Mansoor Manas, dean of the engineering college, wants his students to be able to exchange ideas, receive training and gain knowledge.

"I want them to be able to communicate with everyone especially with English," Manas said. "It is important that they always be encouraged."

Manas wants to expand the college library to include current engineering textbooks, professional development magazines and an internet center. "I want it to be easy for them."



MND-C
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE
PRESENTS



Women's History Month Observance

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



"Contributions of Female Soldiers on today's Battlefield"



Location

AL FAW Palace (ROTUNDA)

When

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

From

7:30PM to 8:30PM

POC: MND-C EO OFFICE
DSN: 822-7654/ 53/ 9098
SIPR: 243-4128

SCHOOL

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school. It is just an honor for me and my men to have helped make this dream happen. The children that attend here will carry this country

forward. I hope they will use what they learn at this school to improve their community and country in the future," he said.

The school will educate 200 young men and women, said Hammad Hussein, a local educator.

"This school will help our children understand and grow. Today is a great day," he said. "We are very thankful for the Americans and all they have done here. They will always have friends here in this area because of this."

THE Dog Face Daily

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Heat: Soon to be medical threat No. 1

MAJ. SHANNON ELLIS
3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP VICTORY – Heat injuries are the No. 1 medical threat to our troops and a formidable challenge for our commanders. The months of June through August are the hottest days of summer. Daily average maximum temperatures in the general Baghdad area range from 106 F in June to an average high of 110 F in July and August. Leaders at all levels must continually remind Soldiers of the serious consequences of heat stress. While telling Soldiers to “drink more water,” is very helpful, it will not be sufficient by itself to prevent serious heat injuries. Leaders must take a proactive approach to confront this enemy.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom I, there were six heat-related Soldier deaths, with 30 heat strokes and numerous other heat-related injuries.

There has been a low overall death rate in the last five years as a result of command emphasis and the efforts which preventive medicine personnel place on effective programs. Successful prevention of heat injuries depends largely on education of personnel (especially those charged with supervisory roles). This year, all Soldiers in Task Force Marne will receive refresher heat injury training no later than May

1. In addition, our medics will receive specialized training and a practical exercise to hone their treatment skills. Commanders should use frequent checks to emphasize to subordinates the importance of heat injury awareness and prevention.

What can the Soldier do? A lot! First, decrease your own risk factors for heat injury. Maintain your own physical fitness. Hydrate with no more than 1.5 quarts of water per hour, during peak periods of sweating; drink no more than 12 quarts per day. You can know your body’s level of hydration by simply observing your urine color. Follow work/rest cycles, as much as the mission allows.

One of the most important prevention strategies is to avoid over-the-counter supplements such as cold or allergy medications (they impair your body’s ability to sweat); weight loss products (they increase your body’s production of heat); caffeine products (they cause dehydration); and muscle-enhancing products like creatine, (they store water in muscles to improve appearance but steal water from your body’s circulation).

The key to prevention is eating a regular, well-balanced diet and drinking plenty of water. Do not wait until you feel thirsty because your body is already dehydrated at this point.

Finally, look out for your buddy and make sure you can recognize the signs and symptoms of heat injuries. Heat injuries start with dizziness, headache, dry mouth, nausea, weakness, muscle cramps and unsteady walk. If these are seen, quick action can often prevent permanent injury.

First, place the individual in shade or make shade, loosen clothing, provide fluids and give them a snack. More serious signs of heat injury are vomiting, unconsciousness and any abnormal behavior or change in mental awareness; for example, not knowing the day, location or purpose of the mission. If these symptoms are observed, the situation is a medical emergency. Rapid cooling must take place immediately, even before medical evacuation occurs. Remove clothing down to undergarments, cool body with available water and fan continuously until medical evacuation arrives. MEDEVAC the Soldier by the fastest means possible, as reduced time to medical care is critical for survival. Rapid cooling and MEDEVAC are the single most important steps any buddy can take to prevent a fellow Soldier from dying.

Ensure all your servicemembers know these steps in order to prevent heat injuries. Prevention materials can also be found on the secure 3ID website.

Safety Thought of the Day Ground Guide Safety Reminders

- All Soldiers must be trained in standard hand and arm signals and flashlight signals before ground guiding a vehicle or operating a vehicle using a ground guide.
- Ground guides should keep 10 yards between themselves and the vehicles front and rear corners.
- Ground guides must stay out of the vehicle path of travel.
- Instruct drivers to STOP immediately if they lose sight of the ground guide, see a ground guide in a dangerous position, or don’t understand a signal.
- Ground guides must never run in front of a vehicle or walk backwards while ground guiding.
- For all vehicles larger than a Humvee, use 2 ground guides when backing up. They must maintain visual contact with each other, and the front guide must stop the vehicle if they lose sight of the rear ground guide.
- Only one ground guide gives the signal to the driver.

- For more information reference: AR 385-10, FM 21-305, FM 21-60, and TC 21-306.



File photo

Headline Highlights

Baby snake in luggage bites man; postal driver charged, jailed

Snaked stowed away in luggage bites man

McLEAN, Va. (AP) – Maybe he heard a faint rattling around in his luggage, but he surely never assumed the sound came from a stowaway snake sealed in his bag.

Alas, that’s what happened to Andy Bacas, an Arlington man who was taken to the hospital Monday after being bitten by what authorities believe was a juvenile canebrake rattlesnake.

Bacas, a rowing coach at Yorktown High School, told fire and rescue personnel that he reached into his luggage Monday morning after returning from a team trip to South Carolina when he felt a sharp pain. That’s when he saw the nearly foot-long snake and quickly slammed the luggage shut with the snake inside, said Chief Ben Barksdale, spokesman for the Arlington County Fire Department.

Fire and rescue workers took the suitcase outside, opened it and blasted it with a carbon dioxide fire extinguisher, essentially freezing the snake and killing it, Barksdale said.

“The guy who responded had seen it done on TV,” Barksdale said of the technique, adding that it can be effective for bees or other wild animals.

Bacas was in stable condition Monday afternoon at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Barksdale said he had no information that the snake was deliberately put into the luggage.

Bob Myers, director of the American

International Rattlesnake Museum in New Mexico, said it’s conceivable that a snake would crawl into luggage seeking warmth or shelter, though his first instinct was to suspect some sort of prank.

The venom from a canebrake rattlesnake can be particularly harmful, but a juvenile rattlesnake is not usually large enough to deliver enough venom to be lethal, Myers said. While the snake found in Arlington was less than a foot long, adult canebrakes can grow to a length of six feet.

“There’s an old wives’ tale that says a baby rattlesnake bite is worse than an adult bite, but that’s just not true,” Myers said.

Myers said three or four people die each year from rattlesnake bites in the United States, out of perhaps 8,000 bites a year.

Small town man accused of driving into post office

RAVENDEN SPRINGS, Ark. (AP) – Not only the postman rings twice. A Jackson County man remained in jail Monday after he drove two cars into the post office in Ravenden Springs.

Randolph County Sheriff Gary Tribble said Glenn Irvin Sparling, 65, drove one vehicle into the post office on Sunday, and fled the scene. The sheriff told Jonesboro television station KAIT that the car stopped running. So Sparling went home and got another vehicle, a red antique sports car, and started driv-

ing back to the post office.

The sheriff said a deputy spotted Sparling and gave chase. The pursuit ended when Sparling ran the second car into the post office building. Sparling wasn’t hurt, the sheriff said.

Manager of Post Office Operations Hillrey Adams said Monday that the building had an 8-foot by 8-foot hole in it.

“The damage is extensive. This is a small, modular post office building and it has one wall completely out of it right now,” Adams said.

A contractor was on site clearing out the damaged area so it could be repaired.

“It’s so dusty in here right now, Adams said, coughing.

Adams said Sparling had damaged a post office previously, and the sheriff said Sparling had a history of damaging postal buildings. No one was in the post office when it was hit.

The facility was moving mail on Monday, but Adams said there was little demand for walk-up services.

A dispatcher said Sparling was still in jail Monday afternoon and she denied a request to talk to him.

Sparling faces numerous counts, including felony charges of vehicular fleeing, criminal mischief and leaving the scene of an accident with property damage. He is also charged with DWI, and authorities said federal charges are possible.

Ravenden Springs has about 130 residents.

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday’s puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

weapons

es-lee-Hah