

Iraqi students enhance skills at English Day

4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

HILLAH — An English Day Program at the Regional Embassy Office in al-Hillah gave 25 students and 15 staff and faculty members from Babil Province a chance to hone their English skills April 19.

Five students from five different schools, two English teachers from those schools, the Director General for Education and other representatives from the Department of Education took advantage of the interaction with the Babil Provincial Reconstruction Team and the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion.

"I think it was as positive of an interaction for us on our side as it is for them," said Kim Sonn, public diplomacy officer with the PRT. "I think it was an excellent public diplomacy opportunity to be able to combine education with presenting a positive image of America."

"The young people don't get to interact with the Soldiers very much," she said. "It presents a different side to the U.S. military that can only benefit us in the long run. It goes a long way to winning hearts and minds."

The program kicked off with a morning seminar for the English teachers,



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Mark Yanway, deputy team leader for the Babil PRT, plays "Simon Says" with students from the Babil province during an English Day Program at the REO in al-Hillah, Iraq.

who teach secondary school, with PRT representatives.

"Teachers play one of the most important roles in society; they are the role models for students," said Ken Hillas, PRT leader.

The instructors expressed a desire to improve their English in order to teach their students better.

"Teaching is hard work; it needs pa-

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Coalition forces help Iraqi child with medical care

1-30TH INF. REGT., 2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — U.S. Soldiers took a break from their daily routine to help an Iraqi child recover from tuberculosis April 20.

Ali Jamel Ali, an Arab Jabour youth, was fitted for a back brace by Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment.

Ali, a resident of Baija Village, was originally diagnosed with tuberculosis by Lt. Col. Hee-Choon Lee, 1-30th Inf. Regt., 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd

Infantry Division surgeon. Lee referred Ali to a doctor in Baghdad for proper medication and treatment.

Lee said tuberculosis bacteria typically attack the lungs but the spine can be destroyed as well. When attacked and weakened, the spine contracts a condition called Potts disease. Ali received medication from doctors in Baghdad to kill the tuberculosis bacteria.

"I'm so happy Ali Jamel Ali has started his medications which will permanently repair his spinal chord inju-

ry," Lee said.

To prevent Ali from developing a hunched back, Lee ordered a special back brace to support the child's spine during the healing process.

Ali's father said he was very appreciative of the Soldiers' efforts.

"The Americans have done more for us than we could have imagined," Jamel Ali Khudayr said.

Lee said Ali will take the spinal cord medication for at least nine months and will need to use a back brace for several years.

Soldiers work to repair Arab Jabour schools

SGT. JASON STADEL
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – After months of fighting, Coalition forces in Arab Jabour have rid the area of al-Qaeda in Iraq and turned their attention to rebuilding the community.

Those efforts have opened numerous schools, water pumps and health clinics in Arab Jabour. The Islah School, Al'ula School and al-Alemia School are currently undergoing repairs in Arab Jabour.

Capt. James Anthony, commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and his Soldiers are overseeing the repair of the al-Alemia School in the Bayija village.

Anthony said the school was in disarray after AQI used it as a base of operations.

"The exterior walls were destroyed and whole classrooms were demolished," said Anthony, from Byhalia, Miss. "All of the electrical wiring had been removed to include the generators powering the water filtration system."

"When 1-30th (Inf. Regt.) invests its time and energy into the repair of (school) infrastructure ... we are investing in the future leadership of a peaceful Iraq."

– Capt. James Anthony
commander, 1-30th Inf. Regt.



Courtesy photo

Capt. James Anthony, commander of Co. C, 1-30th Inf. Regt., watches as children play at the al-Alemia school in Arab Jabour. Anthony and his company have helped to rebuild the school.

It was assessed that more than 50 percent of the area's AQI leadership lived near the school. The battalion conducted numerous combat operations in the area, resulting in many AQI members being killed, detained or fleeing. After the operations most of the AQI leadership was gone but they left behind dangerous traps for Coalition forces and citizens.

"Multiple (improvised explosive devices) were found on the school grounds, as well as in several of the

stairwells and classrooms," Anthony said.

Company C removed the IEDs and within two days nine teachers and more than 35 students began classes, Anthony said.

Company B, 1-30th Inf. Regt. Soldiers saw a similar trend at the Al'ula School in the village of Abd al-Salman. Since AQI was forced out of the area in late 2007 and early 2008,

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Editorial Staff

TF Marne PAO — Lt. Col. Randy Martin

Managing Editor — Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs

Editor/Design — Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Spc. Sophia Lopez

Contributing Units

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

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7th Sustainment Brigade

720th Military Police Battalion

302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ENGLISH: 35 Iraqis benefit from English Day program

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tience and it needs love," said one Iraqi English teacher who has been in the profession for 38 years.

During the morning seminar, Lt. Col. Mark Yanway, PRT deputy team leader, discussed the importance of using language in context, ensuring the instructors are teaching what students need to know. After his class the teachers contributed some of their own ideas.

"Most of our contacts in the education field are constantly telling us of the need to develop language skills, especially in the teaching of English," Sonn said. "We have been told that curriculum development is lagging in Iraq and they're always looking for new ideas and new ways of teaching English ... as we're native English speakers, that's one (where) we really have an expertise that we can help pass on."

After the morning seminar, the students arrived and the fun began ... playing games that demanded they speak in English.

The students took advantage of the games that gave them an opportunity to interact with the Americans, asking questions such as what their names were, where they were from and how old they were.

"I think the kids had a really good time; they were very advanced and some of them were even from gifted schools so they had very good English skills to begin with," Sonn said. "I think for the kids it was somewhat of a learning experience to practice their language skills with native speakers and to interact with Americans in a really positive way."

SCHOOL

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more than 800 children have returned to school.

When Anthony and his company saw residents' eagerness for their children to return to school they made it a priority to repair and improve the school.

Commander's Emergency Response Program funds were secured to finance the school's repairs, which serves as both an elementary and a primary school.

"When 1-30th Infantry (Regiment) invests its time and energy into the repair of (school) infrastructure ... we are investing in the future leadership of a peaceful Iraq," Anthony said.

To turn their attention to rebuilding schools, it requires the combat Soldiers, most of whom are infantry, scouts or armor, adjust their focus.

"It gives many of the Soldiers a different look at the population," Anthony said, adding it was hard to believe just months earlier the school was uninhabitable due to the IED threat.

Capt. Cesar Santiago, Company B executive officer, said improving education is one of the first steps in rebuilding Iraq.

"Education is one of the most vital tools to improve quality of life in this community and that begins with providing the appropriate learning environment," said Santiago, from Coamo, Puerto Rico.

Most of the repairs at the three schools include installing new windows and doors, fixing electrical wiring, installing new sinks and toilets and providing fresh water.

Safety Thought of the Day

Sleep Management Reminders

Sleep deprivation may lead to:

- Falling asleep at the wheel.
- Failing to recognize a threat or reacting too slowly.
- Impaired thinking and reasoning abilities, bad decisions.
- Overall degradation in alertness and ability to function properly.

Tips for sleep management:

- Maintain a nutritious diet and try to avoid too much caffeine, sugar and tobacco.
- Do not eat or drink too much before bedtime.
- Exercise regularly but not within 3 hours before bedtime.
- Avoid activities that are mentally or physically stimulating before sleeping.
- Avoid over-the-counter "sleep aids," which can cause grogginess, not actual sleep.

- When sleeping, minimize noise and light by wearing earplugs and blackout shades.
- Maintain a disciplined work/rest cycle (15/7/2).



File photo

Headline Highlights

Sight-seeing Elvis; alligator surprise; new church in bar

Elvis' secret visit revealed, half a century later

LONDON (Reuters) – Rock'n'Roll legend Elvis Presley did in fact visit Britain, it was revealed on Tuesday, with a secret visit to London accompanied by another rocker.

For more than half a century it was generally accepted the "King" only made a fleeting transit visit to Scotland in 1960 – much to the disappointment of his legion of UK fans.

But theatre producer Bill Kenwright has revealed in a radio interview that Presley, then 23, managed to go sight-seeing in London with Cockney singer Tommy Steele.

The pair's trip, understood to have taken place in 1958, included visits to the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace, Kenwright said. Presley did not perform.

Kenwright, who has known Steele for decades, inadvertently revealed the secret trip in a pre-recorded Radio 2 interview on Ken Bruce's show Tracks Of My Years.

At the time Presley was so popular he needed military guards to control crowds whenever he made a public appearance while Steele was billed as his British equivalent.

Steele, now 71, from Woking in Surrey, was discreet when asked on Tuesday to confirm the meeting.

"What actually happened many years ago is something secret and memorable," he told the Daily Mail.

"It was an event shared by two young men sharing the same love of their music and the same thrill of achieving something unimaginable.

"I swore never to divulge publicly what took place and I regret that it has found some way of 'getting into the light'.

"I can only hope he (Presley) can forgive me."

Kenwright, 62, said he accidentally revealed the secret.

"It's quite something, isn't it – the thought of them wandering around London together," he later told the Daily.

"But the impression I got was that they never got out of the car. It was more like, 'There's Buckingham Palace... there's the Houses of Parliament'.

"Tommy is a very private person who doesn't go into the past. It's only me who makes him talk about it."

Elvis' only documented visit to Britain was in brief stopover in Ayrshire when his plane landed at Prestwick airport to refuel.

Woman finds 8-foot alligator in her Florida kitchen

OLDSMAR, Fla. (AP) – And some people get jittery about mice in the kitchen.

Authorities say 69-year-old central Florida woman found an 8-foot long alligator prowling in her kitchen late Monday night.

Sandra Frosti says the gator must have pushed through the back porch screen

door and then went inside through an open sliding glass door at her home in Oldsmar, just north of Tampa. It then apparently strolled through the living room, down a hall and into the kitchen.

A trapper with Animal Capture of Florida removed the alligator, which was cut by a plate that was knocked to the ground during the chaos. But no one inside the house was injured.

New church holds service in bar to reach new people

SIDNEY, Ohio (AP) – Another round and amen! Beer was on tap and a mechanical bull inspired the sermon as a new church held its inaugural service in a western Ohio bar.

The Country Rock Church drew about 100 people to Sunday night's meeting at the Pub Lounge in Sidney, 35 miles north of Dayton.

The barroom church is an offshoot of Sidney United First Methodist Church, whose head pastor says he's been looking for creative ways to reach people in unconventional places.

The church's Web site for its new branch advertises "Top regional bands, pizza, wings, rowdy fun & a short message."

The Rev. Chris Heckaman says people really seemed to enjoy themselves so he expects the Country Rock Church will meet weekly.

Heckaman's sermon compared staying on the bar's mechanical bull to learning how to get along in life.

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from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY

Where are you injured? wen in-jeh-ruh-hit?