

Sayafiyah celebrates change

SGT. KEVIN STABINSKY
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – After nearly three months of reconstruction, Sayafiyah residents celebrated the simultaneous openings of the Sayafiyah Governance Center, Veterinary Clinic and Health Clinic May 20.

“This is their day,” said Capt. Joe Johnson, commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment.

All three of the projects were a result of teamwork between Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the civilian population.

“They are great people down here who want to help themselves,” said Sgt. Jeremy Johnson, a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-187th Inf. Regt. “They put a lot of hard work into this,” he said, pointing to the restored health center. “Before, it was just rubble.”

Like the buildings, the community itself had been in dire straits. Once a safe haven for al-Qaeda in Iraq, the community was held in bondage out of fear, said Lt. Col. R.J. Lillibridge, 1-187th Inf. Regt. commander.

The tide turned for the better with the arrival of the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division in January.

With the support of this unit, the beginnings of a Sons of Iraq program took shape. However, due to the end of their deployment, the 5-7th Cav. Regt. could not pursue any long-term reconstruction efforts in the area before handing responsibility over to the 1-187th Inf. Regt.

When the 1-187th Inf. Regt. first arrived, Capt. Johnson said his unit began to strengthen the recently-risen SoI pro-



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

A Sayafiyah government official cuts the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the Sayafiyah Governance Center. Besides the center, the Sayafiyah Health Clinic and Veterinary Clinic also opened.

gram and assess the area's needs. Those needs, in addition to the health and vet clinic, included restoring two water pump stations, two water treatment plants and two schools, he said.

But most importantly was the need to establish a government structure in the area.

“We want to see Iraqi people taking care of Iraqis, and the Iraqi government facilitating the needs of their representatives,” said Capt. Johnson, of Baton Rouge, La.

Achieving this required the creation of a city council and linking them with higher government organizations, he said.

Currently, Sayafiyah has an 11-member city council, with the council head reporting to the Rasheed Nahia council.

From there, concerns are sent to the Mahmudiyah Qada and finally to the central government, Lillibridge said.

“It's little government reaching up to big government,” said Lillibridge, a native of Smithfield, R.I.

“It is a positive sign. Before we solved all their problems, now we're letting them solve their own,” he added.

The work has begun to pay off, and the yield is shown by recent Government of Iraq involvement. The GoI rural service committee chairman, Mr. Mashadanni, has visited the area, as well as members of the Ministry of Education, Lillibridge said.

Besides instilling confidence in the people about their government, these commitments pave the way for considerable relief to American taxpayer involvement. Originally, projects such as the building of the health clinic, vet clinic and governance center were funded by Commander's Emergency Relief Program funds, Lillibridge said. More than \$3 million was invested into the area.

Now that Sayafiyah has a voice in the GoI, Iraqi money is starting to make its way into the rural agriculture-based society. The Sayafiyah Council has already requested funds to restore seven additional area schools.

The funds will come from \$8 million pledged to the Mahmudiyah Qada, Lillibridge said.

With the GoI finally making an investment into the area, it now works to protect that investment. Because none of the day's events or other improvements could have happened without security established, GoI officials are sending troops into the area to help maintain se-

Cavalry unit prepares for move following Iraq deployment

PFC. MONICA K. SMITH
3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP STRIKER – The Army is constantly changing and restructuring to best meet mission requirements. At times, missions may require the movement of entire units to new locations.

The 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, is one such unit making the move to join the 3rd Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade in Savannah, Ga.

However, the Soldiers of 3-17th Cav. Regt., are not moving from their home of Fort Drum, NY., but from Camp Striker, Iraq, now that their deployment is coming to an end.

"We're doing our redeployment and unit move simultaneously," said Capt. Erik Wright, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, and personnel officer for 3-17th Cav. Regt. "There have been rumors since the beginning of the deployment (that 3-17th Cav. Regt. would join CAB), but now it's official."

With the reorganization of both the 3rd CAB and Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, each is giving up and receiving units to achieve the size of a medium CAB. The 3rd CAB Apaches of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, at Hunter Army Airfield are moving to Fort Drum to join 10th CAB, while the Kiowa Warriors of 3-17th Cav. Regt. make the move to Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga., said Lt. Col.



Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Soldiers of Troop E, 3-17th Cav. Regt., pack up their equipment following a customs inspection, at the CAB flight line, Baghdad. Troop E, along with the rest of the squadron will join the 3rd CAB in Savannah after completing their tour in support of OIF.

Kevin Fowler, 3-17th Cav. Regt. commander.

As they prepare to redeploy, the squadron's mission is twofold, Fowler said. First, the unit is concerned with equipment accountability in Savannah.

"The initial question was: where is our equipment going?" said Maj. Nathaniel Wallace, executive officer of 3-17th Cav. Regt. "Do we send it to Savannah or New York?"

For the Soldiers there's no difference between redeployment and the unit move with the exception of personal bags, which would normally travel with the unit's equipment, Wallace said. However, with the equipment going to Savannah, many Soldiers had to arrange other ways to transport their personal items home.

"We have to ship a lot of our personal items home," said Pvt. Devin Steele, who works in the operations section for HHT, 3-17th Cav. Regt. "I don't have a whole lot of stuff but I can imagine it would be complicated for people who have a lot of stuff."

Secondly, the 3-17th Cav. Regt., is concerned with the movement of Family and personnel to Savannah. A team from Hunter Army Airfield has already traveled to Fort Drum to talk to Families about schools, day care and other important services or issues, said Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Whitney, of 3-17th Cav. Regt.

"(Hunter) has been and is making this transit as smooth as possible," Whitney said. "The good news is we've been working together and have established a lot of relationships within the brigade in combat and now we're just falling back on them when we get back. We have a great group of folks staying with the team who want to go to Hunter."

The squadron will have its personnel and equipment moved to Savannah by Feb. 16, 2009, when it will effectively join the 3rd CAB.

"The Squadron is excited about coming to 3rd CAB," Fowler said. "We've had a great relationship working with the CAB in [Operation Iraqi Freedom] and we anticipate the relationship is going to grow and become a great one."

THE Dog Face Daily

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Editorial Staff

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Managing Editor — Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Editor/Design — Spc. Sophia Lopez

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2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
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3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Abn. Division (Assault)
4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division
214th Fires Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
793rd Military Police Battalion
354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CHANGE: *Projects result of Soldier, civilian teamwork*

From page 1

curity goals and keep al-Qaeda out.

In the next 30 days, a company of Iraqi Army Soldiers will take up residence with the 1-187th Inf. Regt. at Combat Outpost Meade, one of several bases manned by the Soldiers in Sayafiyah.

A second IA company will follow

sometime in the next three months, settling in at Patrol Base Vanderhorn, Lillibridge said.

"It makes our job easier," said Sgt. Johnson, an Aiken, S.C. native, of the Iraqi involvement.

Such ease will help both the Coalition forces operating in the area and IA joining them, since much work still needs to be done in the community to improve

standards of living, said Col. Terry Ferrell, commander of 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. But for now, he said it is important to celebrate the progress evident in the new buildings.

"There's work to be done, but not today," said Ferrell, of Huntington, W.Va. "Today we celebrate and tomorrow we get back to work improving the community."

National Police detain four suspected insurgents in raid

PFC. MICHAEL SCHUCH

2ND BCT, 1ST ARMD. DIV.

COP CASHE – The Iraqi National Police, supported by Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 1st Iraqi National Police Transition Team (NPTT), detained four suspected insurgents during a raid in Jisr Diyala, approximately 16 kilometers southeast of Baghdad, May 20.

The arrests were made after the NP

received a tip leading to the locations of the suspects. The four detainees had outstanding warrants for terrorist activities.

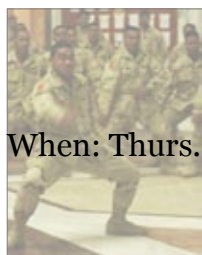
"The National Police-led operation was very effective," said Capt. Matthew Foster, intelligence officer for the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment.

"This is only the beginning," said 1st Lt. Dhafur, intelligence officer of the 3/1 NP Brigade. "We hope to continue this success as we continue operations

in the Jisr Diyala area."

The success of the raid further indicates the NP and Iraqi Security Forces are trained, ready and able to provide the security and support necessary to maintain stability for residents of the Jisr Diyala area.

The 3/1 NPTT is currently attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, from Baumholder, Germany, deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in April.



MNC-I Equal Opportunity Office presents
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

When: Thurs., MAY 22, 2008 From 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Location: Camp Victory Stage

POC: MND-C EO Office DSN: 822-7654/53/9088 SIPR: 243-4128

All MND-C Soldiers are encouraged to attend

Safety Thought of the Day

Actions to Indirect Fire Reminders

Indirect fire can occur at any time with or without warning. Be prepared to take decisive action to prevent injury to yourself and others. Are you prepared to take action?

- Familiarize yourself with all warning notifications at your location: Individual, unit and big voice.
- Be aware of your surroundings, pre identify bunkers/shelters around frequented/unfamiliar areas.
- Take shelter immediately if time permits, preferably a bunker or hardened structure.
- Warn others in the area as you take cover.
- If out in the open, hit the ground (face down), cover your head with your hands

and arms.

- If indoors (hardened structure/building), go to innermost part of building, stay away from windows/doors, stay inside until the "All Clear" is sounded.

- Render first aid to the injured as required.

Units

- Ensure adequate shelters are in place for the protection of assigned personnel.
- Brief and review immediate action procedures for indirect fire with all unit personnel and visitors.
- Ensure accountability of personnel after all clear and report IAW unit procedures.
- References: MNC-I VBC Mayor's Cell SOP, and MND-C Force Protection SOP.

Headline Highlights

Lost parrot; drugs for cash?; banned ref; praying pilots

Lost parrot tells veterinarian his name and full address

TOKYO (AP) – When Yosuke the parrot flew out of his cage and got lost, he did exactly what he had been taught — recite his name and address to a stranger willing to help.

Police rescued the African grey parrot two weeks ago from a neighbor's roof in the city of Nagareyama, near Tokyo. After spending a night at the station, he was transferred to a nearby veterinary hospital while police searched for clues, local policeman Shinjiro Uemura said.

He kept mum with the cops, but began chatting after a few days with the vet.

"I'm Mr. Yosuke Nakamura," the bird told the veterinarian, according to Uemura. The parrot also provided his full home address, down to the street number, and even entertained the hospital staff by singing songs.

"We checked the address, and what do you know, a Nakamura family really lived there. So we told them we've found Yosuke," Uemura said.

The Nakamura family told police they had been teaching the bird its name and address for about two years.

But Yosuke apparently wasn't keen on opening up to police officials.

"I tried to be friendly and talked to him, but he completely ignored me," Uemura said.

Cash-strapped man offers to pay with marijuana

WELLINGTON (Reuters) – A New Zealand man had a novel idea when he found himself in a queue at a service station counter with no money, could he pay with marijuana instead?

Unfortunately he didn't get a chance to discover whether the attendant would accept his offer, as the person behind him in the queue was a police officer, the Dominion Post newspaper reported.

The man's attempt to buy two packets of M&Ms and a packet of potato chips to satisfy his "munchies" was caught short when he was arrested.

He must have been hungry, as he failed to notice the police patrol car sitting on the station forecourt being filled with petrol, the paper reported.

The 28-year old mechanic from the small North Island town of Carterton pleaded guilty to possessing cannabis in the Masterton District Court and was remanded for sentencing.

Vietnamese football referee banned for changing his mind

BANGKOK (Reuters) – A referee in the Vietnamese football league has been suspended for four matches for awarding a goal and then changing his mind, local media reported.

Referee Nguyen Xuan Hoa was reprimanded by the country's football federation for bowing to pressure from Danang, whose furious players stormed off the field after conceding a goal to Dong Tam Long An last week.

The Danang team returned 20 min-

utes later after Hoa reversed his decision and went on to win the game 3-2.

In a meeting with the federation's disciplinary committee, referee Hoa insisted no one had influenced his decision, the Thanh Nien Daily reported.

He was suspended for four matches, however, and his assistants banned for three for failing to mention the incident in their match reports.

Danang's coach was fined \$495 (252 pounds) and banned for four games for interrupting the match.

New Zealand pilots land on a wing and a prayer

WELLINGTON (Reuters) – Two New Zealand pilots whose plane ran out of fuel landed on a wing and a prayer, literally, local media reported on Wednesday.

Grant Stubbs and Owen Wilson from Blenheim, at the top of the South Island about 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Wellington, were in a microlight plane when the engine cut out.

"When you're in a microlight if you crash, you usually die. I turned to O B (Wilson) and he said we had no fuel," Stubbs told the Marlborough Express newspaper.

"I asked what we should do. He said: 'You just pray Grant.'"

Stubbs said he prayed to God to get them over a ridge and they finally landed in a small grassy area, and beside a six metre (20 foot) high sign saying "Jesus is Lord – The Bible".

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1								

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY

Can you get me a...?

teg-dar it-jeeb-lee...?