

Iraqi Police graduates move on to the force

SGT. DANIEL T. WEST
214TH FB

FOB DELTA – A group of 436 graduates from the Department of Border Enforcement academy here entered the ranks of the Iraqi Police force May 22.

The graduates will be under the command of Provincial Director of Police Maj. Gen.

Hannin al-Ameer, and will be stationed throughout Wasit province.

“They will be a welcome addition to our manpower,” said Cpt. Hayder Ali Adnan, liaison officer for Coalition forces and member of the IP. “This is the best training in the country They are ready to fight and protect their country.”

Sgt. Daniel T. West
Colonel Peter Baker, commander of the 214th Fires Brigade, receives a gift as an honoree during a graduation ceremony at the Department of Border Enforcement Academy.



Sgt. Daniel T. West
Newly graduated IP pass in review during a graduation ceremony of 436 new IP at the Department of Border Enforcement Academy.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony marks re-opening of school

SPC. JUSTIN SNYDER
2ND BCT, 1ST ARMD. DIV.

COP CARVER – Members of the Salman Pak city council and U.S. troops celebrated the reopening of al-Zuber School in Salman Pak, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony May 21.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, are now supporting the surrounding region in an effort to rebuild the community.

The 2-6th Inf. Regt. took over the area from the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, which arrived in January 2007, a time when the area received enemy fire regularly and the school needed much repair.

The 1-15th Inf. Regt. began a \$180,000 project, designed to improve conditions at the school and help create

a better environment.

Capt. William Richardson, commander of Company C, took over the project in early May.

Richardson attended the ceremony and said he is glad his Soldiers could help make this a safer place for children to learn and grow.

“When we arrived here, it wasn’t a very safe place,” Richardson said. “Working together with these people represents a positive step forward for Iraq and has created a safer Salman Pak.”

Originally, the project was due to be complete in June, but was finished a month early. Improvements included new bathrooms, newly painted walls and an entranceway garden.

A member of the city council cut the ribbon, making the re-opening of the

school official. The school will provide nearly 700 children education and employ 43 teachers.

Mohamed Mahmud Jewad, manager of Marsa al-Shemah Construction Company, also attended. His company worked alongside Coalition forces and believes their work has paid off greatly.

“We are thankful for the Coalition forces, the city council, and anyone else who has helped complete this project. This school is something that the people have always wanted,” Jewad said. “We worked together to create something beautiful and I hope that one day, all of the schools in Iraq can look like this one.”

Richardson said that everyone involved in this project has done an amazing job.

Battlefield promotions award extraordinary Soldiers

SPC. SOPHIA R. LOPEZ

3RD INF. DIV.

PFC. MONICA K. SMITH

3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP VICTORY – Twenty-two Multi-National Division - Center Soldiers have been approved for battlefield promotions. The effective date for their promotions is May 16.

Battlefield promotion is a one-year pilot program for promotions of staff sergeants and below.

"The purpose (of battlefield promotion) is to give Soldiers who have shown extraordinary performance in a wartime situation the opportunity to advance to the level they are performing," said Sgt. Maj. Essie Jackson, the G-1 sergeant major.

To be eligible for this promotion, soldiers must be assigned or attached to a unit participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom within the geographi-

cally boundaries of Iraq or Afghanistan, be in a promotable status on the effective date of promotion, have met minimum time-in-service and time-in-grade requirements and have met minimum military education requirements.

Soldiers are eligible for one battlefield promotion to a noncommissioned officer rank.

Fighting back tears, Spc. Vanessa Farmer thanked her fellow Soldiers and leaders as she was promoted to sergeant at the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division flight line, Baghdad International Airport.

Sgt. Jason Schad, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, was also promoted to staff sergeant at the 3rd CAB flight line, and he thanked Soldiers and leaders in his unit as well. Schad joked that he had been a sergeant a long time. "This is proof that anything can happen," he said.



Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Stidley, with the 3rd CAB, 3rd Inf. Div., promotes Spc. Vanessa Farmer to sergeant during a battlefield promotion at the 3rd CAB flight line.

The following Soldiers have been approved for battlefield promotion:

Spc. Daniel T. Demer,

2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Pfc. Jessica Faaumu,

2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Sgt. Christian D. Stephenson,

2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Pfc. Bryan A. Walton,

2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Spc. Jon E. Bloom,

3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Pfc. Emril L. Getscher,

3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Spc. Raquel L. Martinez,

3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Pfc. Brett Smith,

3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Spc. Jonathan Adams,

4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Pvt. Michael J. Arvizu,

4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Pfc. Aaron R. Lovato,

4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Pfc. Evan H. Ridenhour-McHenry,

4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Sgt. Harold E. Ross,

4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Pfc. Qadree T. Smith,

4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Pfc. John K. Kim,

3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT)

Pfc. Jesse L. Tomme,

3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT)

Cpl. Maurice E. Tunstall,

3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT)

Spc. Vanessa Farmer,

3rd CAB, 3rd Inf. Div.

Sgt. Jason M. Schad,

3rd CAB, 3rd Inf. Div.

Pfc. Manuel Corpas,

3rd Inf. Div.

Spc. Heidi McNeely,

3rd Inf. Div.

Spc. Matthew G. Dawkins,

214th FB

THE

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2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division

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

Rakkasans distribute supplies to Iraqi schools

PVT. CHRISTOPHER McKENNA
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

CAMP STRIKER – Rakkasan Soldiers distributed school supplies to the Saad and al-Zuwaiti Schools, about 11 kilometers southwest of Baghdad, May 21.

The Soldiers, with Troop A, 1st Squadron, 33rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), distributed a total of nine boxes filled with pens, pencils, erasers, paper, folders and other supplies.

“Basically, anything you would send your child to school with back home was included,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Wade, native of Auburn, Mass., section sergeant for Troop A.

Schoolchildren and generous people of Fairfield, Pa., donated everything distributed on that day.

“Tammy Kurtz, mother of one of our Soldiers, a teacher’s aide in Fairfield, contacted us and wanted to do something with the students as a civic’s lesson,” Wade said.

Various stores and shops in the Fairfield area took interest and also contributed to the donation of items.

“My mother asked me what she could do to help out here, so I gave her details on the schools,” said Spc. Robert Kurtz, a native of Fairfield, Pa., scout for Troop A,



Pvt. Christopher McKenna

Soldiers with Troop A, 1-33rd Cav. Regt., carry school supplies into the Saad School for distribution. Specialist Robert Kurtz’s mother organized the items and had them shipped for distribution to Iraqi children from Fairfield, Pa.

1-33rd Cav. Regt.

“Naturally a caring person, she wanted to send maybe a box of school supplies. When people realized what she was doing, help started to come from all over, growing into a big fundraiser where I’m from,” he added.

Kurtz’s mother asked for a list of items that the Iraqi children could use, which was relayed back to other people wanting to help.

“It shows a level of understanding by both the children and adults back home,” Wade said. “One of the five pillars of Islam is giving to the poor. Most of the people out here look at America as rich, and it’s nice to know that 8- and 9-year-olds back in the States are helping 8- and 9-year-olds in Iraq.

“Maybe on the children the message is lost, but I think, for the adults – especially the teachers – they realize that this is actually a big moment,” he said.

This is the first time the Rakkasans of 1-33rd Cav. Regt. have handed out school supplies in the area.

“Usually when items are distributed it tends to be things like water, food and medical supplies,” Kurtz said. “It’s good to know that people who have are willing to give to those who need.”

Wade said he thinks the effects of this goodwill gesture will be felt for a long time.

When the Rakkasans arrived in Iraq, Kurtz said he didn’t see many children commuting to and from school during missions.

“Now every time we go out on a mission I see children walking the streets, moving around without fear,” he said.

Safety Thought of the Day

Hearing Loss Prevention

Hearing loss is permanent. Protect it as much as possible.

Hearing protection should be worn:

- During off FOB missions (ground or air).
- Around Generators or Engine maintenance areas.
- On the firing range or on a combat patrol.
- When operating in or around aircraft.
- Around other areas marked “high noise area.”

WEAR:

- Own voice will sound low toned. Sounds will be muffled.

- Twist rather than pull earplugs out of ear.
- Re-insert periodically if worn for long periods.

CARE:

- Wash earplugs with warm soapy water.
- Allow earplugs to completely dry before placing into the ear or earplug case.
- Store earplugs in an earplug case to minimize loss and damages of the earplugs.

Ref: U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Medicine (USACHPPM).

Headline Highlights

Mules replace gas; answers to test; stolen letters; grenade!

High gas prices drive farmer to switch to mules

MCMINNVILLE, Tenn. (AP) – High gas prices have driven a Warren County farmer and his sons to hitch a tractor rake to a pair of mules to gather hay from their fields. T.R. Raymond bought Dolly and Molly at the Dixon mule sale last year. Son Danny Raymond trained them and also modified the tractor rake so the mules could pull it.

T.R. Raymond says the mules are slower than a petroleum-powered tractor, but there are benefits.

“This fuel’s so high, you can’t afford it,” he said. “We can feed these mules cheaper than we can buy fuel. That’s the truth.”

And Danny Raymond says he just likes using the mules around the farm.

“We’ve been using them quite a bit,” he said.

Brother Robert Raymond added, “It’s the way of the future.”

Every pupil’s dream: the exam with answers on back

LONDON (Reuters) – It sounds like every student’s dream – turning over an exam paper and finding the answers on the back.

But that was what happened to 12,000 lucky teenagers when they sat their GCSE music exam last week.

The OCR (Oxford, Cambridge and RSA) examination board admitted on Thursday that, because of a “printing

error”, papers sent to schools had answers to questions on the back page.

“All exam papers have a copyright statement dealing with source material on the back page,” an OCR spokeswoman said. “This one in particular had more detail than is usual in a music paper.”

The exam board said only 5 percent of the overall marks on the paper were possibly affected and students would not have to do a re-sit as most pupils seemed to have been unaware of their good fortune.

“It is unlikely that any of the 12,000 students sitting the examination would have recognised the value of the information ... and subsequently used it,” said the spokeswoman, adding there had been just 20 queries from teachers.

“OCR is confident that the procedures put in place will ensure that all candidates get the grades that their hard work deserves.”

Historian pleads guilty to stealing Lincoln letter

NEW YORK (Reuters) – A U.S. historian pleaded guilty on Tuesday to a federal charge stemming from stealing letters.

Edward Renehan, 51, admitted stealing a March 1, 1840, letter written by Lincoln and two by Washington, one written on August 9, 1791 and one written and signed on December 29, 1778.

Renehan later sold them to a New York gallery for \$97,000, according the

U.S. Attorney’s Office in Manhattan.

Renehan, who has written six books including one on the Kennedys, stole the letters from the Theodore Roosevelt Association, a New York-based historical and cultural association where he had been a director.

He pleaded guilty to one count of interstate transportation of stolen property and faces a maximum of 10 years in prison.

Renehan had suffered from bipolar disorder that was undiagnosed during 2005 and 2006 at the time of the thefts, his lawyer Peter Brill said.

Kids picking up trash discover hand grenade

HUDSON, Wis. (AP) – Three children picking up trash along a river in Hudson for community service work found much more than garbage. Charlie Thompson, 11, Maddie Roth, 10, and Demetri Roth, 8, came across a hand grenade, picked it up and headed home to show off their discovery.

On their way back Monday, they ran into a neighbor, who immediately called 911. Hudson police cordoned off the block, then determined the grenade wasn’t a danger, even though it still had the firing pin inserted. Sgt. Eric Atkinson says the grenade was rusted and contained no powder.

Thompson’s mother, Heidi Hansen, says the children wanted to keep the grenade for a souvenir, but police are holding it.

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to Thursday’s puzzle:

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

ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY

Where is the...?

weh-nil ...?