



U.S. Soldiers salute the American flag during a ceremony to bring Iraqi Army in the lead of their Joint Security Site 1 in the Wasit province of Iraq on Oct. 11, 2008.



U.S. Army Col. Richard Francey and Iraqi Gen. Abed Jabir cut a ceremonial ribbon at Joint Security Site 1, in the Wasit province of Iraq, to signify a joint effort with the Iraqi Army leading the way on Oct. 11, 2008.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Tiffany Dusterhoft/Released) 081011-A-1028D-007

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Iraqi Army officials come together for a lunch with U.S. Army Col. Richard Francey on Oct. 11, 2008, at Joint Security Site 1 in the Wasit province of Iraq.



U.S. Army Col. David Paschal, Commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., holds a young Iraqi boy during a visit to Taza's market street, Oct. 5, 2008, as U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, Commanding General for Multi-National Division - North, looks on with laughter.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Ave I. Pele-Sizelove/Released) 081009-F-6964P-128



British Soldier, Jim Barton of the 2nd Battalion Royal Angilan Unit, interacts with local children in Hayy Ash Shu'lah district Basra, Iraq on Oct. 10, Multi-National Division - Southeast.



Alpha "Renegade" Company, Task Force "Regulars" 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment Spc. Christopher Jackson of Washington, D.C., directs the flow of Iraqi pedestrians as they find an alternate route due to the closure of a checkpoint in the Jamilla area of the Sadr City district of Baghdad on Oct. 8, 2008.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Cohen A. Young/Released) 081008-F-3798Y-371



A local farmer carries fruit to give to U.S. Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, as they clear the Owja Desert of Iraq, Oct. 10, 2008.



A U.S. Marine works out in a camouflage netted gym at Combat Outpost Mudaysis, Iraq during the evening of Oct. 3, 2008. Marines are currently in the process of buildup and operations in support of Operation Al Anbar Border Initiative.



Col. Abdallah Tallaj Al Hathal, right, Commanding Officer, Ar Ar Point of Entry, 26th Iraqi Army Brigade, shakes hands with Capt. Walter A. Maessen, Border Transition Team LNO, Jump Command Post, I Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD), after arriving at Combat Outpost (COP) Mudaysis on Oct. 9, 2008. Col. Abdallah visited Marines on COP Mudaysis in order to become better oriented with Operation Al Anbar Border Initiative as well as the combat equipment being used.

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Seth Maggard/Released) 081006-M-1391M-004



U.S. Army Col. Richard Francey, 41st FIRES Brigade commander, speaks to Iraqi children at a local school on Oct. 9, 2008, in Al Haay, Iraq. The event was part of Al Haay Day, which encompassed a medical evaluation, Iraqi press conference, school book distribution, and Joint Security Station site assessment, all of which helped to establish Coalition presence in Al Haay.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Caskey/Released) 081009-F-0943C-198



Iraqi school children, sporting new backpacks given out by Coalition forces, pose for their picture on Oct. 9, 2008, in Al Haay, Iraq. The event was part of Al Haay Day, which encompassed a medical evaluation, Iraqi press conference, school book distribution, and Joint Security Station site assessment, all of which helped to establish Coalition presence in Al Haay.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Caskey/Released)
081009-F-0943C-158

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A young Iraqi girl looks through a notepad given to her by Coalition forces at a local school on Oct. 9, 2008, in Al Haay, Iraq. The event was part of Al Haay Day, which encompassed a medical evaluation, Iraqi press conference, school book distribution, and Joint Security Station site assessment, all of which helped to establish Coalition presence in Al Haay.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Caskey/Released) 081009-F-0943C-228



U.S. Soldiers from 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, take a break from conducting a cache search in the rural region of Zoba, Iraq, Oct. 4, 2008. The site has been historically known to hold countless hidden weapons caches.



U.S. Army Sgt. Mitchell Hassler, Company C, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, continues his search for hidden weapons cache along with his unit, Oct. 4, 2008. U.S. Soldiers from 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, conducted a cache search in the rural region of Zoba, Iraq. The site has been historically known to hold countless hidden weapons caches.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Daniel Herrera/Released) 081004-A-8725H-448



A group of soldiers from the 8th division Iraqi army play a game of backgammon while U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers from Joint Security Station 2 (JSS 2) conduct a recon inspection of their outpost as a potential location for a future JSS Oct. 09, 2008, in Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq.



Iraqi teenagers play a game of pool at a small arcade while soldiers from the 8th Division Iraqi army and U.S. Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Comanche Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, 1st Platoon, Fort Carson, Colo., conduct a joint dismounted patrol through a local market Oct. 10, 2008, in Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Matthew Plew/Released) 081010-F-3452P-072



Iraqi children play near by as soldiers from the 8th division Iraqi army conduct a joint patrol with U.S. Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Comanche Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo., Oct. 10, 2008, in Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq.

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