

Brighter day ahead as Twin Schools open

By Pfc. Adam Halleck

1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

TAJI, Iraq — On Oct. 12, a ceremony celebrated the grand opening of two schools nestled in a small village north of Baghdad, culminating two years of hard work.

Known as the Twin Schools to American Soldiers, here, they will now educate over 1200 students, and provide the children of the area the schooling they deserve.

In the past two years this project experienced many hurdles and it wasn't until the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division assumed the project that the schools had any hope of being open for the new school year.

When the U.S. troops arrived in the Taji area in mid-August, the battalion made civil capacity and essential services missions a main priority. By focusing on things that better the lives of a large majority of the local population, the American Soldiers here feel they can leave a lasting impact in their area of operations.

“The projects we fund are geared at benefitting a large group of people,” said White-water, Wis. native, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien, the civil capacity and essential services officer. “The Twin Schools will benefit the over 1200 children, their families, and most importantly the future of Iraq.”

As the sun shone bright in



Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck,

Ozark, Ala. native, Lt. Col. Eric Schwegler, commander of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, speaks to the students of the Twin Schools during the grand opening ceremony here, Oct. 12. “The children standing here are the future doctors, engineers, and leaders of Iraq,” said Schwegler.

the small village, hundreds of children, local leaders, and U.S. Soldiers stood in attendance to celebrate this historic day. In the background stood the schools with classrooms full of desks and chalkboards, staffed with faculty, ready to offer the children of this village and surrounding areas a proper education.

When he walked to the podium to give his speech, Ozark, Ala. native, Lt. Col. Eric Schwegler beamed with pride. As the battalion commander, Schwegler has played a large role in cultivating the

progress of the Twin Schools project. Understanding that the children of Iraq possess the hope for a stable future in Iraq, Schwegler and Lien relentlessly ensured that the schools would open for the upcoming school year.

“Lt. Col. Schwegler let it be known that the Twin Schools were a top priority,” explained Lien, who oversaw the project for the battalion. “We stayed in contact with the contractors daily and made bi-weekly visits to the site to ensure that the school opened in time.”

Thousands of man hours,

nearly one million dollars, and two years later, the schools are finished. After all of the hard work by so many people, the grand opening ceremony held such great meaning to all of the children, local leaders, and U.S. troops.

“The children standing here are the future doctors, engineers, and leaders of Iraq,” said Schwegler during his ceremony speech. “This project is a testament to the Government of Iraq, local leaders, and [U.S. forces], in our shared vision for the future of Iraq.”

A new mission for Soldiers and IP

Photos by 1st Lt. Josh Risher,
1st Bde. PAO, 1st Cav.Div.



BAGHDAD—An Iraqi policeman observes as Spc. Mario Macias, a mortar man from 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, uses a metal detector to search for improvised explosive devices along the Baghdad-Diyala highway. This mission marked the first time that U.S. Soldiers and Federal Police conducted an air in-



Spc. Mario Macias (left), from Fort Worth, Texas, uses a metal detector to search for improvised explosive devices along the Baghdad-Diyala highway with help from Spc. Nathan Huhn, from Rootstown, Ohio. Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division conducted multiple combined air insertions along the highway



U.S. cavalry scouts from "1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and Iraqi policemen from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Federal Police Division, run to board a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter after sweeping a stretch of the Baghdad-Diyala highway. The combined force conducted three air insertions, all in clear view of the busy highway. One purpose of the mission was to deter insurgents by showing them how quickly and unexpectedly the combined force can arrive

Tournament promotes unity across Ma'dain

By Pfc. Jared Gehmann
3rd BCT PAO, 82nd Abn. Div.

BAGHDAD — It may have not been the World Cup, but for eight Iraqi community teams pride was at stake during a day-long soccer tournament held throughout the vast Ma'dain region, Oct 9.

The small remote towns of Jasr Diyala, Narwan, and Village 10, located on the outskirts of eastern Baghdad, hosted the tournament matches.

As normalcy continues to fill the worn-torn country, U.S. and Iraqi officials want to show the Iraqi populace that the improved

security is here to stay

"It is wonderful to see everyone here working together under the logo of cooperation and brotherhood," said Dr. Khalid Alrrakabi, sports director for the Ma'dain region and the manager of the Jasr Diyala sports complex. "There are few events such as this where all the different communities of our region can come together and bond."

As the teams played, residents from the surrounding community gathered near the field to observe and cheer on their favorite team. However, with all the fun and excitement, Paratroopers of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division and their ISF partners maintained security to keep everyone attending the games safe.

"We would not have been able to hold these without the help of the U.S. Army and the Iraqi police protecting the surrounding area. A

large gathering such as this could be a good target for violence," said Alrrakabi.

Prior to the games, Paratroopers handed out soccer jerseys, balls and other equipment to many of the players. Many of the balls were donated by the "Kick for Nick" organization. The organization was founded in honor of Pfc. Nick Madaras, who was killed by an improvised explosive device in Baquba, Iraq, on Sept. 3, 2006.

Leaders from the 3rd BCT, along with key Iraqi officials have been planning this tournament for weeks and for many seeing the event take place was a sign that their hard work was bearing fruit.

"I know that these guys put a lot of work into getting this thing organized. Now it's our job to protect our superior officers and the people while they enjoy watching the games," said Sgt. Clay Hartsook, of Oakridge N.C.



Photo by Pfc. Jared Gehmann

U.S. Army officers and local Iraqi leaders watch a soccer match between local communities, Oct. 9, in the town of Narwan, Iraq.

Engineer commander pledges future training

By Lt. Col. Pat Simon
225th Eng. Bde. PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq — What started out as a gift delivery for the months of mutual support and admiration, turned to a promise for continued support.

During a visit to the Iraqi engineer school, Oct 12, Brig. Gen. Owen Monconduit, commander of the 225th Engineer Brigade, assured his Iraqi counterpart of that U.S. engineer assistance would continue.

The Louisiana-based engineers are just weeks away from completing their mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Monconduit, of New Orleans, La., showed his gratitude to Col. Falah, Taji Engineer School commandant, for his leadership in turning out some highly trained Iraqi engineers that are securing the cities of Baghdad and will help rebuild the country.

"Col. Falah is an outstanding leader who shapes and influences the Soldiers and he gives them their capabilities," said Monconduit. "The purpose of the mission is to assure the Iraqi leaders that partnership will continue under a new command of the 16th Engineer Brigade when the 225th departs."

"It's always important for engineer commanders to visit here and check on the Soldiers training," Falah told Monconduit during the hour long meeting. "It is very important for me to meet other commanders who come to my school to discuss any issues we have face to face."

One commander, Lt. Col Hatem, commander of the 11th Iraqi Engineer Regiment, traveled with Monconduit to visit the school. Hatem's unit leads the way in getting engineer equipment and training Soldiers on that

equipment.

"We graduate many students who are leaders in Iraqi Army. They are very capable engineers," praised Hatem. "They have a special feeling for this school."

Since the 225th Eng. Bde. arrived in Baghdad last January,

dozens of classes were held at the Taji school. The U.S. engineers helped train hundreds of Iraqi Soldiers on engineer skills ranging from route clearance of improvised explosive devices to general engineering like electrical and plumbing.



Photo by Lt. Col. Pat Simon

Gen. Owen Monconduit (right), commander of the 225th Engineer Brigade, thanks Col. Falah, commandant of the Taji Engineer School for the months of successful partnership efforts between U.S. and Iraqi forces.

On This Day In History

October 15, 1966

The worst driver in American history

On this day in McKinney, Texas, it was reported that a 75-year-old male driver received 10 traffic tickets, drove on the wrong side of the road four times, committed four hit-and-run offenses, and caused six accidents, all within 20 minutes. It is ironic that the record book's worst driver is a native Texan, because Texans, especially residents of Houston, are consistently ranked as the best drivers in the nation. On another record-breaking bad driver note, Mrs. Fannie Turner of Little Rock, Arkansas, finally overcame her driving demons this month in 1978 when she finally passed the written test for drivers--it was her 104th attempt.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles, 101st Eng. Bn

BAGHDAD—Lt. Col. Charles Cody (left), of Braintree, Mass., commander, 101st Engineer Battalion, pins Sgt. Steven Barry, of Traverse City, Mich., 1434th Engineer Company, 101st Eng. Bn., with the Combat Action Badge at Camp Liberty, Oct. 11.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Chuck Norris has a deep and abiding respect for human life... unless it gets in his way.

Depart Fort Riley, Kansas – To Dallas, Texas (Why a trip South in order to head North-West to Colorado? I don't know, but it's OK because Dallas has, quite possibly, the best USO in the world) – To Colorado Springs, Colorado (12 hours off plane) – To Newfoundland, Canada (3 hours off plane) – To Shannon, Ireland (2 hours off plane) – To Budapest, Hungary (2 hours ON plane) – To Kuwait (4 hours of training 8, days of waiting) – To Iraq (EOM)



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Quote For Today

“Education is a continuous process ending only when ambition comes to a halt.”

— Col. R.I. Rees —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
96° F | 69° F



Tomorrow
87° F | 62° F



Saturday
91° F | 66° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

With luck and skill, Michael Jordan can win his 7th consecutive NBA scoring title this year, tying which person for that distinction?

Last Issue's Answer: : Roger Bannister

Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — The Cav Round-Up is a three-minute radio newscast from Baghdad covering military units and events across Multi-National Division — Baghdad.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 176 was produced by SGT Lisa Heise, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Soldiers train soldiers how to operate effectively in combat. SGT Ashley Anderson, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, PAO.

The training will help improve the Iraqi Army's battlefield maneuvers.

2. Military schools are popping up all over Iraq and the 82nd Airborne Division is teaching their skills to the soldiers of the 11th

Iraqi Army Division at the Mada'in Military Academy in southern Baghdad.

The training academy includes a five day course which focuses on company level leadership skills.

NIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

SIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

Check out more news at the 1st Cavalry Division's homepage:

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

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

Trigger's Teasers

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday's Answers

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



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