

Reaping the benefits of strong relationships

By Staff Sgt. Peter Ford
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — U.S. Soldiers of B Troop, 1st Battalion, 150th Armor Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, interact with the local nationals of the Yusifiyah region, south of Baghdad, everyday to build stronger relationships. The strong friendship between American troops and the local government, here, is beneficial to all involved in the reconstruction of the community.

“This results in a peaceful community, with people living together in harmony,” said Staff Sgt. Steve Matthews, civil affairs non-commissioned officer from St. Louis, Mo.

“The greatest benefit for me is to see a smile on a child’s face when we give supplies to the children at their schools.”

These goodwill projects developed between the local governments and the Americans not only bring smiles to children but they help out the community and build a solid foundation for a stronger friendship, according to Sgt. Jeremy Fouts, a security non-commissioned officer from Charleston, W. Va.

“The strong friendship makes the community of Yusifiyah a safer place,” he added.

“Yusifiyah is safer because the people are turning criminals in and keeping bad people

out of their community,” said Fouts.

The strong bond in the community has caused a reduction of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices and improvised explosive devices, Fouts said. The friendship is not only good for the key players in the community; it is good for the soul.

“It makes me feel as if we are doing something meaningful when we take school supplies to local schools,” said Cpl. Joshua Allen, a medic from Heard, W. Va. “Giving school supplies to kids builds long-term relationships, and they grow to love and trust us.”

Many of the supplies are



Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Ford

Children line the corridor of the Mullah Fayyad Primary School, in Yusifiyah, Oct. 15, to eagerly wait for the American and Iraqi Soldiers to hand out supplies

shipped in from the families of the Soldiers, small churches in the United States and humanitarian aid organizations like USAID, said Staff Sgt. Michael Hawf, a native of St. Louis, Mo., a civil affairs non-commissioned officer. Unit commanders meet with the local government to find out what is needed most in the communities and try and accommodate the need with the supplies gathered.

Insurgents and criminals may try to hold sway over Yusafiyah, but the U.S. Soldiers and the community are rallying together to reap the biggest benefit, a more peaceful community with little or no discord.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Ford

Iraqi Soldier Hussein Ali and Sgt. Jeremy Fouts, a security non-commissioned officer from Charleston, W. Va., assigned to B Troop 1st Battalion, 150th Armor Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, formulate a plan on how to pass out the school supplies to the children at the Mullah Fayyad Primary School in Yusifiyah, Oct. 15.

Paratroopers, FP secure Nahrawan

*Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Alex Licea,
3rd BCT PAO, 82nd Abn. Div.*



BAGHDAD – Col. Timothy McGuire (center), of Alamo, Calif., commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, walks with senior leaders from the brigade's 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment and 3rd Bde., 1st Federal Police Div., during a combined clearance operation, Oct. 17, in the town of Nahrawan, Iraq.



Sgt. Justin Blank, of La Puente, Calif., checks his surroundings while providing perimeter security during a combined clearance operation, Oct. 17. Paratroopers, assisted Iraqi Federal Police officers assigned to the 3rd FP Brigade, 1st FP Division check on the area's security and confiscated several weapons during the clearance operation



Staff Sgt. Clark Hitchcock, of Kaneohe, Hawaii, takes a knee and checks his sector during a combined clearance operation, Oct. 17. Hitchcock is a combat medic assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

Keeping the mail going throughout Iraq

By Spc. Ruth McClary
30th HBCT PAO

BAGHDAD — Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night has been reduced to four-words here in Iraq.

“Do I have mail?”

Pvt. Matthew Pierce and the Soldiers of the personnel office, here, at Camp Stryker, have become all too familiar with the question.

They pick-up, sort, log and deliver letters and packages sent to Soldiers of the 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

Pierce, of Wytheville, Va., joined the West Virginia National Guard unit three years ago as a personnel specialist but has come to enjoy “playing Santa” as he personally delivers mail to Soldiers of the 150th ARS.

“Just knowing the effect of what I’m doing makes it worth it, because mail is one of the most powerful morale boosters for

Soldiers away from home,” said Pierce.

Pierce travels to the Joint Military Mail Terminal every morning to pick-up an average of 400 to 500 pieces of mail for the nearly 530 Soldiers of the squadron.

According to 1st Lt. Jose Allende, the JMMT officer in charge, the main mail terminal processes nearly 5,000 pieces per day, servicing nearly 165 units to include Army, Marine, Air Force and civilian personnel at Victory Base Complex. Soldiers attend a four hour class to become certified mail clerks before handling mail from the terminal.

Pierce, who has been working as a mail clerk since the squadron was called to active duty status, was the most qualified person for the position. Although the mail-room is his primary responsibility, eight other personnel Soldiers are also certified mail clerks through the JMMT.

“A few sergeants said they

were going to run the mail room when we arrived here, but this is Pierce’s baby and he is good at it,” said Capt. Jason Webb, of Ripley, W. Va.

“He’s the squadron mail clerk but he also volunteered to receive mail for 200 Soldiers of an Air Force Detachment for a couple of months until they set-up a mail-room.”

Falling right in line with the postal slogan, the personnel staff has withstood desert temperatures and dusty conditions to make sure the squadron receives its mail.

“One day the thermometer read 142 degrees and they were outside working, pulling those boxes off the truck,” said Webb.

U.S. Soldiers have received tremendous support from folks back home through care packages sent to the Soldiers on a regular basis. Fifty boxes weighing nearly 75 pounds each came in one day addressed to Troop B Soldiers who live at a small joint security



Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary

Pvt. Matthew Pierce pulls packages and letters from a huge mail bag as he “plays Santa”; sorting and distributing large quantities of mail received daily by the Soldiers

station roughly 25 miles south of Baghdad.

Teaching combatives to Iraqi police

By 1st Lt. Josh Risher
1st Sqdrn. 7th Cav. Regt.

BAGHDAD — U.S. Soldiers got down and dirty with their Iraqi partners from the when they introduced hand-to-hand combat-

ive training at Joint Security Station Istiqlal, in northeast Baghdad.

Soldiers from B Troop, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st

Cavalry Division and a platoon of Iraqi Federal Policemen assembled around a combatives pit, Oct. 14, as San Benito, Tex. native, 1st Lt. Juan “Mike” Olvera, drew on his past experience in a variety of martial arts, a two year professional boxing career, and the Army’s combatives program to lead the instruction.

The intent of the training was not to turn the Iraqis into professional hand fighters; instead it focused on training the policemen to deal with situations where a weapon is not available or not necessary.

“You want to keep space between yourself and a potential opponent,” Olvera told the class as he demonstrates how to approach a person displaying hostile intent.

After several weeks of proficiency training, this Iraqi platoon

knows how to effectively use their weapons. Now they are learning techniques without weapons.

Olvera shows them how to gain and maintain the advantage, with policemen working in pairs; practicing techniques for pushing an opponent away when an assailant attempts to grab or strike them.

As they push their opponents away, the policemen take additional steps backward which gives them time to raise a firearm.

“Most of these guys had never done anything like this before, but they were really motivated. They learned fast,” Olvera said after the class.

Several Soldiers from B Troop assisted in the instruction, demonstrating and holding sparring pads to develop the Iraqis’ punching techniques.



Photo by 1st Lt. Josh Risher

1st Lt. Mike Olvera (left), uses his forearm to block Spc. David Croft’s simulated knife attack during combined combatives training with their Iraqi partners at Joint Security Station Istiqlal, Oct. 14.

On This Day In History

October 20, 1944

MacArthur returns

After advancing island by island across the Pacific Ocean, U.S. General Douglas MacArthur wades ashore onto the Philippine island of Leyte, fulfilling his promise to return to the area he was forced to flee in 1942.

The son of an American Civil War hero, MacArthur served as chief U.S. military adviser to the Philippines before World War II. The day after Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941, Japan launched its invasion of the Philippines. After struggling against great odds to save his adopted home from Japanese conquest, MacArthur was forced to abandon the Philippine island fortress of Corregidor under orders from President Franklin Roosevelt in March 1942. Left behind at Corregidor and on the Bataan Peninsula were 90,000 American and Filipino troops, who, lacking food, supplies, and support, would soon succumb to the Japanese offensive.

After leaving Corregidor, MacArthur and his family traveled by boat 560 miles to the Philippine island of Mindanao, braving mines, rough seas, and the Japanese navy. At the end of the hair-raising 35-hour journey, MacArthur told the boat commander, John D. Bulkeley, "You've taken me out of the jaws of death, and I won't forget it." On March 17, the general and his family boarded a B-17 Flying Fortress for northern Australia. He then took another aircraft and a long train ride down to Melbourne. During this journey, he was informed that there were far fewer Allied troops in Australia than he had hoped. Relief of his forces trapped in the Philippines would not be forthcoming. Deeply disappointed, he issued a statement to the press in which he promised his men and the people of the Philippines, "I shall return." The promise would become his mantra during the next two and a half years, and he would repeat it often in public appearances.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

The show *Survivor* had the original premise of putting people on an island with Chuck Norris. There were no survivors, and nobody is brave enough to go to the island to retrieve the footage.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. Mary Phillips, 30th HBCT PAO

BAGHDAD—Kinston, N.C. native, Spc. Cornelius Chadwick (far right), Company E, 230th Brigade Support Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, and two Soldiers of the Iraqi Army prepare to hand out bottled water to people living in the Murtada neighborhood, near Mahmudiyah, south of Baghdad



Quote For Today

"Mistakes are lessons of wisdom"

— Hugh White —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
96° F | 69° F



Tomorrow
87° F | 62° F



Thursday
91° F | 66° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

Three different TV shows dominated the TV ratings in the 1980's. Every year of the 1980's, the top rated TV show was one of these three: What were they?

Last Issue's Answer: closer to 30% - in fact, 28 %

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 # 164 was produced by SGT Lisa Heise, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Soldiers of the 1472 Civil Affairs Company bring food and goodwill to Iraqi families to help celebrate the end of Ramadan. SGT Stephanie Logue, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, PAO.

Food was given to some of the families in rural Baghdad to celebrate the end of fasting.

2. Soldiers of C Troop, 5th Squadron, 73rd Airborne Recon-

naissance Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division and the Iraqi Federal Police deliver much needed water filters to families in the village of al-Tameem.

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/

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

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



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Do you have a story to share?

The **Daily Charge** welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers.

Submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs NCOIC nicholas.conner@mnd-b.army.mil and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The **Daily Charge** reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

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