





Local Iraqi students giggle and smile while being photographed at school in Um Najim, Iraq Feb. 22, 2010. U.S. Soldiers and the Iraqi Army were part of Operation Back to School, a humanitarian aid mission that provided school supplies to the students.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Advin Illa-Medina/Released



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Pedro Villalobos, squad leader, Red Platoon, Combined Security Force (CSF), makes his way across the Emergency Response Unit Compound to continue Quick Response Force rehearsals in Kirkuk, Iraq, March 1, 2010. CSF rehearsed for Quick Response Force duties to better assist Coalition Forces if they need help with security issues on election day.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Matthew D. Leistikow/Released

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Advin Illa-Medina/Released

A U.S. Army Soldier from 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 2-3 Infantry Regiment prepares an armored Stryker vehicle for a mission on Camp Taji, Iraq, Feb. 24, 2010. The Soldiers' mission is a key leadership engagement to discuss security issues around the Taji Market regarding the upcoming elections in March 2010.





U.S. Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 2-3 Infantry Regiment, pray before a mission on Camp Taji, Iraq, Feb. 24, 2010. The mission was part of a key leadership engagement with local Sheiks to discuss security issues near the Taji Market regarding the upcoming elections in March 2010.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Advin Illa-Medina/Released

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Christopher Wellner/Released

U.S. Soldiers and Marines enjoy a meal prepared for them at the local Iraqi Police station with fellow Iraqi Army soldiers in the area of Fallujah, Iraq, Feb. 24, 2010. The coalition operation went to speak with local citizens during a Cordon and Search, with the goal of verifying security of the area prior to and throughout the upcoming elections.





U.S. Army Sgt. Emily Burgess of the 1st Infantry Division Cantigny Brass band from Jewell Kansas teaches an Iraqi girl how to play the French horn at an Arts Festival in Kut, Iraq, Feb. 26, 2010. The festival consisted of Iraqi stage art, paintings, and photography.

U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Shane Samuels/Released

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Iraqi children perform a play about unity between the Iraqi people at an Arts Festival in Kut, Iraq, Feb. 26, 2010. The festival consisted of Iraqi stage art, paintings, and photography.





Iraqi Police from the Riot Control Company stand in a line formation in Mosul, Iraq, Feb. 25, 2010. The Riot Control Company is being trained by the U.S. Army 114 Military Police Company, 3-17 Military Police Battalion, 49 Infantry Brigade.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jillian Munyon/Released

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Adelita Mead/Released

U.S. Army Pfc. Travis Nibbs, of Boston, Mass., puts on his protective gear before entering the turret of his humvee as his convoy prepares to depart Forward Operating Base Wessam, Iraq, Feb. 25, 2010. Nibbs is assigned to the Guardians Maneuver Detachment, 17th Fires Brigade, 1st Armored Division in Contingency Operating Base Basra.





U.S. Soldiers make their way through a sand storm at Fort McHenry in the province of Kirkuk, Iraq, Feb. 22, 2010. The sandstorm lasted nearly seven hours limiting visibility and covering the area in a red haze for the day.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Matthew D. Leistikow/Released

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