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September 1, 2009

U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers aid Bedouin camp near Karbala

By Pfc. Bethany L. Little
172nd Inf. Bde.



KARBALA - Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery helped Soldiers of the 33rd Iraqi Army Brigade hand out 20 boxes filled with toys, clothes, shoes, coloring books and crayons to a Bedouin camp just outside of Karbala recently.



Photo by Pfc. Bethany L. Little

A 33rd Iraqi Army Brigade Soldier helps a Bedouin child try on a shirt during a visit to a Bedouin camp outside Karbala recently. Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery and the 33rd IA Bde. worked together to pass out 20 boxes of toys, clothes, shoes, coloring books and crayons.

Bedouins are nomadic shepherds who choose to live in the desert and are able to sustain themselves by bartering their livestock and things they produce.

There are three Bedouin camps in the area surrounding Karbala constantly changing locations in search of the best conditions for their livestock.

"We only visited one of the camps today, because we knew the exact location," said Staff Sgt. Joseph W. Rippey, squad leader, 1st plt., Bravo Btry., 1st Bn., 77th FA Regt.. "This is our second time here; last time there were approximately 12 tents, but now there are only three tents and one permanent dwelling."

The clothing, shoes and toys were a combined donation from the 172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs Office, Tactical Psychological Operations Detachment 303-1, Thompson Toyota car dealership and Sherah Oberman from Doylestown, Pa.

The Bedouin children cheered and shrieked with excitement as Soldiers passed out the donated items.

"We are very grateful," said Ali Shallal, a young camp resident. "These are all things that everyone here can use, especially the clothes and shoes for the smaller children."

Bedouin camps are spread throughout the Middle East.

"The first time I came out here, it opened my point of view toward people who choose to live like they do," said Rippey, a native of Bagdad, Ariz. "They survive off of what livestock they have and they don't ask for much."

The Bedouins' main mode of travel is by camel or on foot and they have few possessions, making travel easier.

"We have everything we need here," said Shallal. "But we appreciate and are thankful for everything that we're given."

For more of Pfc. Little's stories, visit:

www.TheRedBulls.org/Little



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PODCAST
"God-pops"

www.TheRedBulls.org/Podcast

Musical talent boosts Soldiers' morale

By Pfc. Bethany L. Little
172nd Inf. Bde.



PB HUSAYNIYAH – Music fills the air of the small patrol base as Soldiers gather around a multi-talented musician.

Lost within the song, Pfc. Andrew S. Wells, field data tactical system specialist, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, strums on his guitar for the gathered Soldiers.

Music has always been a part of Wells' life. The second oldest in a family of six brothers and one sister, Wells first immersed himself in the world of music with the drums.

"I started with the drums and then each year in school I started to learn a new instrument from scratch," said Wells, a native of Dimwidde, Va.

Wells also learned how to play the trombone, trumpet, guitar and bass guitar. The driving influence in his life to play is his stepfather.

"He pushed me into playing the drums when I was younger," said Wells. "But the more I played, the more I wanted to play other instruments."

Although Wells doesn't play with his family as much anymore, he continues to play his guitar, even while deployed to Iraq.

"I love to play and being in Iraq is not going to stop me from playing," said Wells.

The desert heat and unique environmental conditions in Iraq have the potential to create problems for some components of musical instruments.

"I have to be careful, especially with the heat. The neck of the guitar could warp or bend and my strings can rust and break," he added.

Wells continues to strum and tune his guitar as the melody floats from his fingertips.

"He's always playing and singing to his girlfriend," said Pfc. Robert M. Hable, radio and telephone operator, 1st Plt., Bravo Btry, 1st Bn., 77th FA Regt., as Wells' cheeks flush with color.

Smiling, Wells begins to sing "My Angel," a song he wrote for his girlfriend, Michelle.

"I've written at least five or six songs for her. She loves to hear me play and sing. Every time I come home she begs me to play for her," said Wells.

Wells finishes playing "My Angel" and starts to play another song he wrote called "Makes Me Stronger" as more Soldiers gather around to listen.

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Photo by Pfc. Bethany L. Little

Pfc. Andrew S. Wells, field data tactical system specialist, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, tunes his guitar. Wells has to tune his guitar three times every time he plays.

THE RED BULL REPORT

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Bazaar creates cooperation, bridges cultural differences

By Sgt. Debralee P. Crankshaw
MND-S



COB BASRA – With Coalition forces operating within the parameters of the security agreement many Soldiers do not have the opportunity to experience much of Iraq's culture. That should change, to a small degree, soon on Contingency Operating Base Basra.

"We want to get to a point where we give the feel of what a traditional Bazaar is in Iraq," said Capt. Andrew Nathan, planning, future operations, civil military operations officer, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division. "The business group that is setting this up is creating an ambiance of a Bazaar or an oasis. It's like coming in off the desert on your camel and you need to be refreshed and you need food and drink and a place of refuge."

The Oasis bazaar will have a "soft" opening for business Sept. 6. The grand opening will be held Sept. 22 to allow dignitaries and VIPs in the area to participate in partaking of the food and drink available. The grand opening was scheduled later because of Ramadan.

The bazaar will offer a variety of traditional Iraqi clothing, arts and crafts, pottery products and stone carvings.

"What we're trying to do at the Bazaar is to bring a local flavor and a (Morale Welfare and Recreation) opportunity for the Soldiers," said Nathan, a Hillsboro, N.D. native. "(Army and Air Force Ex-



Courtesy Photo

The Oasis bazaar will be open for business Sept. 6. on Contingency Operating Base Basra. There will be vendor stalls and tents for Soldiers to buy traditional Iraqi products

change Services) sells things to Soldiers they need on a daily basis and sometimes brings in some of the embroidery shops and framing shops. What we want to do is provide products AAFES doesn't necessarily provide, plus we want to provide Soldiers with the opportunity to buy something that is very traditional, very Iraqi; souvenirs, memorabilia, something they could only get here."

The bazaar is not only designed to allow Soldiers to purchase souvenirs, but also to give them a place where they can get away from it all.

"It's an added MWR opportunity,"

said Nathan. "There isn't a whole lot to do on COB Basra so it gives the Soldiers a chance to get away from their work. This bazaar is far enough away from their normal day of work and it's supposed to be a place of solitude. They're trying to create a place ultimately to kind of hang out – to get away from the work."

"It gives Soldiers a place to go to experience something they normally don't and break up their day, break up their week," said Nathan.

BAZAAR
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Who: All Red Bull Soldiers

What: Open House

**Where: Po Valley Special Event Trailer
(In the Executive LSA behind DMAIN)**

When: Saturday, 5 SEP 09, 1800 to 2000

Why: See the new Special Event Trailer facility, enjoy some refreshments and listen to music by the Northern Star Brass Quintet.

**DEDICATION
1830 hrs.**

**PO VALLEY
SPECIAL EVENT TRAILER**



34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION
ATTACK! ATTACK! ATTACK!

From Page 3**BAZAAR**

The Oasis will feature vendor stalls and tents, a pond with a fountain and a desert motif mural. Soldiers will be offered camel and horseback rides and have the opportunity to have their photos taken in front of the desert mural with the animals.

"Literally they are trying to bring a traditional bazaar and traditional oasis that you would normally see out here in the desert," said Nathan. "If people have read Arabian Nights or they see movies on the Arab culture, there is a picture in everyone's mind of what an oasis or a bazaar would be. They want to bring that as accurately as possible to give the Soldiers that feel and that look."

This project is also beneficial to local Iraqis. Local business men with the Moosawi Group are bringing their experience to COB Basra.

"In downtown Basra the Moosawi Group has a bazaar, like a mall-bazaar, so they are already in the business of selling some of these products," said Nathan. "So, since we can't go to that bazaar, they want to bring the bazaar to us ... it's going to benefit them financially. It's a market they wouldn't normally have access to."

While this is beneficial for both nations, Nathan encourages Soldiers to be grateful for what the Iraqis are doing.

"They are living out their hospitality. The Arabic culture is about hospitality," said Nathan. "We are guests in their country and they are opening their arms to us ... you will see that in the bazaar; you will see their hospitality. I would really encourage

the Soldiers who go to the bazaar to appreciate what the Iraqis are giving to us."

For Nathan, the cooperation of the two nations has been, and will be, the most important part of this project. The bazaar has created an opportunity for both nations to develop a stronger bond.

"This project has shown that the U.S. forces and local Iraqis can come together and develop a positive relationship. I'm very excited about this project because in the end what the Soldiers are going to come and experience, it's going to be pretty magnificent," said Nathan. "But what they'll see is a lot of work was put into this. The Moosawi Group, as well as the leadership here, wanted something special, something unique ... something memorable. In order to provide that there has to be that cooperation, there has to be that synergy, there has to be that bridging of cultural differences."

For Nathan, this project has been about bridging of cultural differences and coming together.

"The bottom line message is, as we draw down and leave Iraq it's important to have left on a high note and this bazaar, I think is not only going to be a project and a place to go, but I think it's going to be a symbol of what we were able to accomplish together," he said. "It will be a good memory for the Americans as well as for the Iraqis, when the Americans leave that we've left on a good note. We've left appreciating each other's company."

For more of Sgt. Crankshaw's stories, visit:

www.TheRedBulls.org/Crankshaw



Who: All COB Basra-based service members, contractors, & tenants

What: Opening of "The Oasis," COB Basra Bazaar (including 20 local vendors selling clothes, rugs, leather goods, pottery, crafts and souvenirs)

When: Sunday, September 6, 2009 at 1000hrs.

Where: Adjacent to Entry Control Point Delta

Note: Bring your Dinars! US Currency, credit cards and Eagle Cash are not accepted.

Beginning Saturday, Sept 12 "The Oasis" is open every Saturday and Sunday from 1000 to 1600 hrs.

Bus service goes to the ECP On-site parking available.

Laylat ul-Qadr (Night of Power)

- The most significant night during the month of Ramadan is the Night of Power, in which Muslims commemorate the gift of the Quran from Allah to the Prophet Muhammad in 610 AD.
- Also known as the Night of Glory
- Muslims spend the night asking for forgiveness of their sins and reciting the Quran.
- It is accepted that the Night of Power falls on one of the odd-numbered days as the last third of Ramadan. Its exact date is unknown.



Chipping and LONG DRIVE Contest!

September 11, 1700hrs.

PRIZES for 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Twenty-five openings, on a first contact basis

Contact Spc. Belland, RBVB at james.belland@iraq.centcom.mil

Recent Changes to the SCRA

The Servicemember's Civil Relief Act was signed into law in 2003. The SCRA gives certain civil protections to military members on active duty, including activated National Guard and Reserve Soldiers. In some instances, these protections are extended to the Soldier's immediate family. There have been changes recently to the SCRA, enhancing some of the protections.

The SCRA caps interest rates at 6% for debts incurred prior to active duty service. The Soldier must write creditors requesting interest rates be reduced and provide a copy of his or her orders to obtain this benefit. It applies to many loans, credit cards and mortgages. The cap is in effect for the duration of the deployment. Under the new change, though, when it comes to mortgages the interest rate cap applies for up to one year after return from overseas deployment.

If a Soldier is unable to appear in court for a civil proceeding due to military duties the SCRA pro-

vides for a mandatory 90-day stay, or postponement, on the Soldier's request. This applies while the Soldier is on active duty and up to 90 days after release from active duty. In order to take advantage of the stay the Soldier must submit facts explaining how military duty requirements affect the ability to appear in court and state a date when he or she will be able to appear. Additionally, the service member must submit a letter from his or her commanding officer certifying that leave is not authorized to attend proceedings.

There is another change to the SCRA. If the matter deals with mortgages, the service member is granted a stay of up to nine months following their return from overseas deployment.

Should the Soldier's military service cause the Soldier to fall behind on mortgage payments they are protected from the sale or foreclo-



sure of their home for nine months after their return from overseas deployment. Previously the limit was 90 days.

These changes will expire Jan. 1, 2011 if Congress does not make them permanent or extend them.

For more of JAG's comments, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/TheGavel

SUDOKU

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

For puzzle solutions visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/puzzlesolutions

From Page 2 MUSIC

Residents here enjoy having their own entertainer. In addition to his music, he brings a little bit of morale to the Soldiers.

"I don't mind him playing; in fact, there have been a lot of times when I have come back from work in a very bad mood and he was in here just playing on his guitar," said Hable, a native of **Wichita Falls, Texas**. "Listening to him play calms me down and really brightens my spirit."

"What he doesn't tell you is that I sing him to sleep every night," said Wells jokingly.

While Wells doesn't really sing people to sleep at night, he does what he can to lighten the mood through his love of music.

For more of Pfc. Little's stories, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/Little

HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

Wichita Falls is the home of the Hotter'N Hell Hundred, one of the oldest and largest bicycle rides in the U.S., boasting well over 10,000 riders annually.

The Basra Beat

Helpful Links
Say 'thank you' with a Freedom Team Salute commendation
www.freedomteam.salute.com

34th ID Mailrooms
DSTB Mailroom:
Monday-Saturday: 1 - 9 p.m.
Sunday: 1-5 p.m.
Division Main Mailroom:
Monday-Saturday: 2-8 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

POST OFFICE
New Hours!
Open Every Day
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Will accept Eagle Cash soon!

Hair Cut!
Barber Shop hours:
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Beauty Shop hours:
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

COB Warrants
34th ID Warrants invite you to a
Warrant Social Gathering
Sep. 2, 6 p.m.
Red Bull Room, DFAC 2
For more information, please contact:
CW2 Krystal Jancze
Krystal.Jancze@iraq.centcom.mil
CW2 Robert Hendrikson
Robert.Hendrikson@iraq.centcom.mil

1st Annual "Freedom Ride"
Sponsored by
Red Bull Saloon
Little Falls, Minn.
Sept. 5
For more information, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Events

Basra 10 Miler
Oct. 4, 5:30 a.m.
To register, Email
joseph.d.corley@iraq.centcom.mil
* Include name, shirt size & unit.

EVENTS
What is going on in COB Basra at:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Events

New post-9/11 G.I. Bill
Benefits available
Click here for fact sheet

Around the world in 34 seconds



TOKYO - Japan's opposition swept to a historic victory in elections Aug. 30, crushing the ruling conservative party that has run the country for most of the postwar era and assuming the task of pulling the economy out of its worst slump since World War II. A grim-looking Prime Minister Taro Aso conceded defeat just a couple hours after polls had closed, suggesting he would quit as president of the Liberal Democratic Party, which has ruled Japan for all but 11 months since 1955. Unemployment, deflation and an aging, shrinking population have left families fearful of what the future holds. Fed up with the LDP, voters turned overwhelmingly to the opposition Democratic Party of Japan, which ran a populist-leaning platform with plans for cash handouts to families with children and expanding the social safety net. "This is a victory for the people," said Yukio Hatoyama, leader of the Democrats and almost certainly Japan's next prime minister. "We want to build a new government that hears the voices of the nation." Hatoyama and his party, an eclectic mix of former Liberal Democrats, socialists and progressives, face a daunting array of challenges, economic and demographic.



ANTIOCH, Calif. - Armed with rakes, shovels and chain saws, about 20 officers Aug. 30 combed the backyard of a couple charged with kidnapping and raping Jaycee Lee Dugard and used cadaver dogs to search an adjoining property where neighbors say one of the suspects once served as a caretaker. Sheriff's deputies and prosecutors from two counties and officers from two city police departments were using the dogs, shovels and other tools to inspect the neighboring yard, which sits behind an off-white house with a chain link fence. "We do consider it a crime scene," said Jimmy Lee, a spokesman for the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department. Police in Pittsburg, a Bay Area city near where the Garridos lived, have said they are investigating whether Phillip Garrido may be linked to several unsolved murders of prostitutes in the early 1990s. Antioch police are also looking into unsolved cases but declined further details. "We will take a close look at if there are any links to open cases," Lee said.



PORTLAND, Ore. - A rare appearance before hometown fans ended in disappointment for Randy Couture, who lost an unanimous decision to Brazil's Antonio Rodrigo Nogueira in the main event Aug. 29 at UFC 102. At the age of 46, Couture would seem like an unlikely superstar in a sport that is dominated by younger grapplers. On Aug. 29, the 33-year-old Nogueira proved to be too much for Couture to overcome. To the dismay of the partisan crowd of 16,088, Nogueira wound up winning all three rounds on all three of the judges' scorecards. Afterward, a battered Couture said he felt it was a fair decision. "I thought he clearly won all three rounds," Couture said of his heavyweight opponent. For Nogueira, it was an honor to be in the same ring with Couture. "I have a lot of respect for Randy," the Brazilian said. "That's why I trained so hard."



SOUTHEAST, N.Y. - An 83-year-old driver chased a pickup truck for 15 miles from New York into Connecticut, helping police catch the drunken driving suspect who had rear-ended his car. The incident last weekend started on Interstate 684 in Southeast, N.Y. Frank Canale of Scarsdale, N.Y., pursued the man all the way to his driveway in Danbury, Conn., and stayed there until police arrived. He said he feared the man could kill someone. His daughter, Lori Canale-Smith of Pleasantville, called police on her cell phone during the chase. By the time they finished filing police reports in two states, the pair missed the wedding they were heading to when the accident happened. Police say the truck's driver was charged with driving under the influence and driving without a license.