



By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, 122nd MPAD

Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, Commander Army and Air Force Exchange Service, visited the AAFES-run facilities at Camp Taji during a theater-wide morale tour of Iraq on Sept. 15. Frost took time during her brief visit to talk with the Soldiers in Taji, asking them their opinion of the AAFES facilities.

Soldiers Keep Camp, Pilgrimage Safe

By Pfc. Al Barrus
122nd MPAD

BAGHAHDAD, Iraq - The beating of drums and the lyrics of Muslim prayers could be heard well within the confines of 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment's patrol base, Camp Justice. The footsteps of tens of thousands of Shiite Muslim pilgrims could be heard as they marched to the Kadhamiyah Holy Shrine just outside the secluded military post on Sept. 11.

This annual event, marking the martyrdom of a Shia holy Imam, Musa Al Kadhim

who died 1,000 years ago, would call for extra security as the multitudes of men, women and children marched through the streets to take part in this age-old tradition.

Though there are many similar pilgrimages to the shrine each year, the Al Kadhim pilgrimage is the largest. During past pilgrimages, violence has erupted.

"There was a lot of preparation involved in the security for this event," said Capt. Seung Ryu, the operations planning officer for 1-5 Cav. "We've had a lot of Soldiers working closely with the Iraqi National Guard

(ING), Iraqi Police (IP), and the private shrine guards to prevent and deal with any violent activity that might breakout during the march."

The added security measures called upon nearly all of the elements on Camp Justice as well as additional military police units from other installations in Baghdad to cover down on security operations. Soldiers as well as ING and IP forces conducted counter-mortar patrols, traffic control points around the perimeter of the march and beefed up security at Camp Justice's gates, while remaining elements

stood by as a quick-reaction force.

The need for the extra troops came at the request of the local Iraqi government, but it was also inspired by the events of previous Shia pilgrimages.

"I anticipate just large amounts of people shouting and maybe throwing stones," said 1st Lt. John Erickson, 630th Military Police Company. "We are prepared to react to just about anything."

But luckily, the crowd of Iraqis brought little more to

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It's Their Money, It's Their House

By 1st Lt. George Mannix
G-5 Officer

While conducting cordon and search operations or while visiting Iraqis in their homes, many troops have come across Iraqis that keep large sums of cash in their homes. Oftentimes, there are large sums of Iraqi Dinar and sometimes there are large sums of U.S. currency.

To Americans, someone keeping such large sums of money gives rise to suspicion. "Why do they need all this money? What are they going to do with it? Why isn't this money in the bank? What's really going on here?"

Not surprisingly, these questions arise in the minds

of the troops. An interview with the Iraqi people may reveal that: some Iraqis do not trust the government; some do not trust banks and some use the money to pay for basic goods. Even when an interview indicates that a targeted Iraqi has been identified, any cash that is confiscated in a raid can only be confiscated if it is believed that the funds are or were used in insurgent activities, in accordance with 1st Cavalry Division policy.

This scenario underscores the importance of: treating Iraqis with dignity and respect at all times and understanding the habits of locals in your areas. Reports from the field indicate that many Iraqis keep

large sums of money, even their entire life's savings in their homes. From an American perspective this is unusual, but in Iraq it is the norm.

You cannot confiscate cash, unless a detainee is using it in insurgent activities. When this occurs, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Two Soldiers must count the cash.

2. The inventory must be recorded on a signed memorandum for record.

3. The Iraqi, from whom the cash is confiscated, must receive a receipt indicating the date, location, capturing unit, the name of the person from whom the cash was taken and the total

sum of the cash.

4. The Soldiers must then turn in the cash to an officer.

5. The officer must count the cash and sign for it on the memorandum.

6. The officer, upon returning from the operation, must ensure that the cash is turned in to the nearest finance center.

Do not be surprised to find Iraqis with large sums of cash in their homes. For many it is a habit. Iraqis take great pride in their homes and in their belongings. By treating their homes and possessions with respect, you instill in them confidence that you are helping to provide a safer and better Iraq for them.



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

Soldiers, Iraqi National Guard and Iraqi Police work together to keep the peace during a Shiite Muslim pilgrimage through Kadhamiyah, Baghdad.

Defending Iraqis

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the situation than the loud singing and other customs that come with the tradition. Some of the pilgrims displayed pictures of radical Shiite cleric and militia leader Muqtada Al Sadr, but showed no acts of violence.

"It was relatively quiet here inside the walls on the base," Ryu said. "You wouldn't be able to tell anything

unusual was going on. The biggest difference is we have an increased uniform requirement just as a precautionary measure."

The Multi-National troops came prepared and expected the worse at the largest Shia pilgrimage to Kadhamiyah of the year, but were pleasantly surprised that there was no violence during the march.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

I'm just passing through.
ana huna fee muroor

Saturday

High: 104
Low: 74



Sunday

High: 106
Low: 76



Monday

High: 109
Low: 78



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

Airport Screenings get More Intrusive

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. officials got a wake-up call last month about the need to screen airline passengers for explosives when two Chechen women apparently carried bombs onto two Russian planes and blew them up. The Transportation Security Administration announced Thursday that, starting next week, all passengers must take off jackets before passing through metal detectors. Also, more travelers will be subjected to pat-down searches and checks for explosives.

Ark. Brims with Ivan Refugees

HOT SPRINGS (Democrat-Gazette) - At the Embassy Suites in west Little Rock, manager Larry Farrar said calls started coming in Tuesday afternoon from Louisiana residents looking for a room. Cars with Louisiana plates filled the parking lot, and sleepy-eyed children dragged pet dogs through clumps of evacuees in the lounge. Farrar said Wednesday that many of the newly arrived storm refugees planned to stay only one or two days. That's good because on Friday, the Arkansas football team arrives, filling 100 suites the night before its Saturday game against the University of Louisiana-Monroe. Many of the other 150 suites in the hotel have already been reserved by Razorback fans.

'Blue to Green' Brightens Future for Some Airmen

FORT KNOX, Ky. (Army News) - Through the program that allows Air Force and Navy service members to enlist in the Army, Senior Airman Louis Umensetter will retain his job as an Information Systems Operator/Analyst, but will move from Whiteman Air Base, Mo., to Fort Bliss, Texas, to be stationed with his wife, Spc. Amanda Umensetter. The two have seen each other only three times since March, when she came back from Camp Humphreys, Korea. The two met there when he served in an Air Force tactical unit at the Army post.

"This is going to be fun," he said. "I am really looking forward to it. I will get a chance to work in the field more in the Army, and I



Army News

New Orleans Recruiting Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Samuel Clear stands with the first "Operation Blue to Green" recruit George D.L. Banks and his wife family. love doing that. Plus, everyone asks how married life is treating me, and I tell them I wouldn't know. We really haven't spent that much time together. But this is going to be great, and now we'll get to be together."

As the Army gears up to handle a variety of contingencies worldwide, officials

said the Air Force and Navy are cutting back, primarily because advances in weaponry, ships, and aircraft have reduced the number of service members required to maintain the force without compromising the missions. In some cases, Airmen and Sailors are not being allowed to re-enlist. Those close to the 20-year mark are being offered early retirement.

"The Air Force and Navy are projected to reduce their active-duty strength - Air Force by 22,500 and the Navy by 7,900, officers and enlisted - by the end of FY 2005," said Douglas Smith, U.S. Army Recruiting Command public affairs officer. "Of that number, the Army is projected to receive 1,800, under the Blue to Green Program."

Mint releases nickel's new look

The U.S. Mint released designs for two new nickels Thursday that will be issued in 2005. They share the same front but have different backs to commemorate important moments in U.S. history.

Closer profile of Thomas Jefferson

"In God We Trust" and the date remain on the front



"Liberty" now appears in script

Front

Back

Design reminiscent of the buffalo nickel commemorates the Louisiana Purchase in 1803

View of coastline commemorates Lewis and Clark's quest to reach the Pacific Ocean



SOURCE: U.S. Mint

AP

Two new coins are being minted as part of the Mint's Westward Journey Nickel series, which started earlier this year with the Peace Medal nickel in March and the Keelboat coin in August. Both had the old image of Jefferson on the obverse. The series commemorates the westward exploration commissioned by Jefferson.

A law passed by Congress and approved by President Bush in April 2003 authorized the redesign of the nickel to commemorate the bicentennials of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition. In 2006, an image of Monticello, Jefferson's Virginia home, will return to the nickel reverse.

Schilling First to Break 20

BOSTON (AP) - Curt Schilling got his 20th win on the eve of Boston's big series with the New York Yankees. Now he wants much more.

"In a couple of weeks, hopefully, it will get a lot better," he said after becoming the first 20-game winner in the major leagues with an 11-4 victory Thursday night over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

By that time, he hopes, the Red Sox will have clinched the AL East title. They trail the Yankees by 3½ games, but the teams have six meetings left - three in New York this weekend and three in Boston beginning next Friday.

"This is a great warmup," Johnny Damon said, referring to Boston's

24th victory in 29 games. "This is the time to shine. I think this is the best assembled team in the league and it's time to show it."

The Red Sox have slashed a deficit of 10½ games on Aug. 15, but the Yankees are coming off back-to-back shutouts in Kansas City.

"It's not like it's the first time we've played them," Jason Varitek said. "We have to concentrate each day on each game. Whatever happens the first day, put it aside."

Boston leads the season series 8-5, but New York has the best home record in baseball, 50-21.

Schilling can match his win totals with Arizona in 2001, when he



Boston's Curt Schilling pitched 7-plus innings against Tampa Bay on Thursday, giving up 4 runs and striking out 6 to record his 20th win of the season. He went 22-6, and 2002, when he was 23-7. He slipped to 8-9 in an injury-plagued 2003 in which he posted a 2.95 ERA, fifth-best in the NL.

Players Scatter on Day 1 of NHL Lockout

(NBC) - NHL players began scattering across the globe Thursday in search of work on Day 1 of the lockout, with no negotiations scheduled between union and management.

While rinks from Pittsburgh to Montreal to Anaheim figure to be quiet in the coming weeks, the ice will be crowded with high-priced talent in places such as the Czech Republic.

In North America, the predominant sound Thursday at NHL practice arenas was silence. In Columbus, Ohio, the speakers outside the Blue Jackets' arena were quiet instead of blaring franchise highlights.

Some players held informal workouts, while others were busy looking for work - either overseas, or in the revived World Hockey



A Senators employee walks into the players' empty dressing room with goaltender Dominik Hasek's equipment sitting on the bench Thursday.

Association that plans to open Oct. 29 or in a six-team circuit called the Original Stars Hockey League that will feature four-on-four play.

The league is seeking massive economic change, and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman has said the confrontation possibly could

extend to the 2005-06 season and jeopardize the NHL's place in the 2006 Winter Olympics.

The stoppage is the first for a North American major league since the 1998-99 NBA lockout cut each club's regular-season schedule from 82 games to 50. It is the third stoppage for the NHL.

In Brief

Jim Carrey will Receive Award

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) - Jim Carrey will receive the American Film Institute's Star Award at the 2005 U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in February. Carrey, winner of Golden Globes for "The Truman Show" and "Man on the Moon," will be honored in a career tribute hosted by Conan O'Brien. The comedy festival will be held Feb. 9-13 in Aspen. Previous Star Award winners include Albert Brooks, Billy Crystal, Rob Reiner, the Monty Python troupe, Steve Martin, Mike Myers and Diane Keaton.

Texas Track Big on Breeder's Cup

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas (NBC) - If the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships is the biggest day in horse racing, isn't it fitting that the event should be held in Texas? Everything is big in the Lone Star State! Now that I have visited Lone Star Park, I can tell you first-hand that this edition of the Breeders' Cup will be big as well. Over the years, I have found an extra zip in the air when the Cup has visited first-time venues like Woodbine in Toronto or Arlington outside Chicago. The buzz around Lone Star seems to be in lock step. Given the pride that Texans have in their state and with their sports, I would be very surprised if Lone Star fails to throw a great show Oct. 30.