



By Sgt. John Queen, 3rd BCT Public Affairs

SMILE! -- While on a mission with the 1st Cavalry Division's Troop F, 9th Cavalry Regiment in southern Baghdad, Cpl. Miriam Garcia entertains a young Iraqi boy in hopes of gaining his trust so she can take his vital signs. Garcia is a combat medical specialist assigned to Company E, 215th Forward Support Battalion.

489th Civil Affairs:

Improving Iraqi Lives One Project at a Time

By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde
122nd MPAD

CAMP COOKE, Taji, Iraq – For many people living west of the Tigris River in villages near the Taji and Tarmiya Districts, life can be pretty rough. But with help from the Soldiers of

one 489th Civil Affairs team and security forces of 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, the area is getting some much-needed improvements.

Recently, local council members proposed a list of life-improvement needs for the local Iraqi people to 489th Civil Affairs Soldiers. Among those projects were three school renovations; an irrigation ditch, water-pump station and water pipe replacements; and general road improvement and trash cleanup.

More than one month and \$1.2 million later, the first batch of projects was completed.

"We just completed renovations to the Sumner Intermediate School," said Staff Sgt. A.C. Willis, team sergeant, 489th CA. "Some work had been done on it in the past, but it still needed more."

After improving the conditions of the school,

the Soldiers with the help of local Iraqi laborers, installed an irrigation ditch that will serve the Attia and Ahmed Hameed villages and some nearby farmland.

"We laid 1.5 kilometers of pipe connecting the reservoir with the new irrigation canal," said Sgt. Sean Llewellyn, 498th CA. "The new canal brings in fresh water from the river which is badly needed for the crops."

Willis explained that while immediately improv-

ing the lives of the locals, the projects also have long-term effects.

"The [two] main objectives with our projects [are] quick impact and high visibility," Willis said. "We started close to Camp Cooke and slowly worked our way out; sort of a ripple effect. Taji is so far outside of Baghdad; the people were feeling left out because most of the money [was being sent] and improvements were being made to Baghdad."



A farmer stands in the newly-constructed irrigation canal and explains to local media how the water provided has helped his crops.



Photos by Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, 122nd MPAD

The 489th Civil Affairs Team with the 39th Brigade Combat Team recently completed construction of this irrigation canal, which provides water to farm land west of the Tigris River.

2-8 Tankers See More of Baghdad ... on Foot

By Pfc. Erik LeDrew
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq—In an urban landscape like Baghdad, a place peppered with a variety of cars, buildings, people, and animals under the ever-present sheen of neon lighting, the tracked monster that is an M1A2 Abrams tank doesn't make for the most inconspicuous or mobile of vehicles.

So when the tankers of White Platoon, "Cobra" Company of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), left the gates of Camp Cuervo the night of July 29 to patrol their sector in north-eastern Baghdad, they decidedly left their Abrams' behind them.

Instead, White Platoon rolled-out in its more mobile, but still quite noticeable up-armored humvees. It wasn't long however, before they came to a stop, parked the vehicles, and threw open their doors to begin part of its patrol that is usually left to the Infantry: the foot patrol.

"Sometimes I'd rather be in a tank because it feels so much safer," Pvt.

Wilbert Parks, 2-8 Cav. said. "But on days where it's hot like today, being inside of a tank is like being in an oven, so I'd definitely rather be outside, walking around."

Despite his training as a tanker, Parks had not conducted a single patrol in a tank since he arrived in Baghdad.

Parks said his platoon is either driving around in a humvee, or doing dismounted patrols on foot, "doing the Infantry thing."

On this particular night the White Platoon patrolled a place referred to as "Restaurant Road," a kilometer-long stretch of road where many Iraqis congregate due to the high-concentration of shops, eateries, nightclubs and restaurants.

1st Lt. Travis Tramell, platoon leader for 2-8 Cav. said the main purpose for conducting the dismounted patrol down Restaurant Road was to give face-time to White Platoon's cohorts: approximately a dozen

Iraqi National Guard (ING) Soldiers of Company C, 305th ING Battalion.

"These ING usually get a really positive response," Tramell said. "(It) gives the Iraqis a feeling that their own people are taking back the control of their country."

After completing their patrol, the Soldiers of White Platoon mounted up once again in their humvees and prepared for another night of patrolling both on and off foot, sans tank.



By Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

1st Lt. Travis Tramell, platoon leader of White Platoon, Cobra Company, 2-8 Cavalry, reaches out to shake the hand

of an Iraqi boy while pausing for a moment during his unit's foot patrol down "Restaurant Road" July 29.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Hospital
mosTASHfa

Wednesday

High: 108
Low: 78



Thursday

High: 108
Low: 78



Friday

High: 110
Low: 78



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

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'A Few Bugs' Don't Ruin Opening

From *Killeen Daily Herald*
WEST FORT HOOD — As the new Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport buzzed with activity during its first day of operations Monday, there was little indication of the last-minute frenzy that had crews working through the night Sunday to prepare for the opening.

Barring a few minor glitches, the first flights out of the airport took off without incident, according to airport officials.

"We found a few bugs here and there as we expected, but generally, everything is working very well," Aviation Director Don Christian told a group of civic and industry lead-

ers during a 10 a.m. celebration.

The \$83 million facility is part of a joint-use project between Fort Hood and Killeen. The Ted C. Connell Terminal Building is a three-story, 87,000-square-foot structure that sits adjacent to Gray Army Airfield, the landing strip now used by both military and commercial flights coming to the area.

The terminal has six gates separated into two boarding areas. It can accommodate six airlines and six rental car companies. Currently, American Eagle and Continental Airlines, served locally by SkyWest Airlines, are the only two carriers operating

in Killeen.

Brenda Perry of Copperas Cove said she appreciated the relatively short drive to the airport.

On her way to Hawaii,

Perry said she could have saved a little money on her fare by flying from Austin, but she said the convenience of using the new Killeen airport justified the slight price difference.



By Steve Traynor, *Killeen Daily Herald*

FIRST FLIGHT -- Continental flight attendant Salena Leday-Williams serves snacks on the first flight out of the new Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport.

Neighbors Take a Bite Out of Crime ... and BBQ

From *The Oregonian*

PORTLAND, Oreg. -- Portlanders launched National Night Out 2004, a weeklong series of community social events emphasizing crime and drug prevention, Tuesday evening.

More than 120 neighborhood get-togethers will mix police and firefighters with musicians, and senior citizens with toddlers.

It's part of an effort to promote neighborhood safety and improve livability, said Eric King crime-prevention program manager for the Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

"Kids aren't born as gang members," said Police Chief Derrick Foxworth, who will visit some block parties Tuesday evening.

"If you can address those things through prevention and intervention,

and working with families and schools, that's more effective than leaving crime prevention to police," he added.

The kickoff was open to the public and will praise neighborhoods for responding to crime, holding foot patrols and organizing cleanups, King said.

Mayor Vera Katz was scheduled to attend but instead celebrated her birthday Tuesday away from the spotlight, King said. Katz is undergoing cancer treatment.

Most of the neighborhoods will hold cookouts, potlucks and block parties this week and through the weekend. Applebee's donated about \$2,000 for this year's events plus \$1,000 as seed money for next year's celebrations, King said.

Four neighborhood associations held concerts

with local musicians, and each hoped to draw as many as 500 people, based on last year's turnouts.

A group of ukulele players asked neighborhood association President Carlotta Collette if they could hold a singalong session during their Thursday celebration.

They'll open for a local favorite, Dr. Jazz and the Interns, featuring Nurse Ethel, which will play from 7 p.m. until sunset in Ardenwald Park, 3637 S.E. Roswell St., Milwaukie.

"I kind of challenge almost any neighborhood to come up with a more eclectic event. We have it pretty well covered," Collette said, adding that youths have spontaneously stepped into line-dancing formations at past concerts.

"It's actually going to be a huge hullabaloo of a night," she said.



Fort Hood Herald

Makeover, Killeen Style

Grace Robert, the wife of a 1st Cavalry Division Soldier and mother of three, received a complete makeover courtesy of the Fort Hood Herald and Killeen-area businesses. The weekly military insert of the *Killeen Daily Herald* newspaper set up Roberts with the makeover to promote a new series of articles.

Nightmarish Opening Night For USA's Latest 'Dream Team'

COLOGNE, Germany (AP) - The U.S. men's Olympic team did more than merely lose. It was embarrassed and exposed like never before in international competition.

Losing an exhibition game for the first time when using NBA players, the Americans were completely outclassed by lightly regarded Italy, never even making it close in the fourth quarter of a 95-78 upset Tuesday.

"This is a wakeup call for us," Philadelphia 76ers star Allen Iverson said. "I think we need something like this to understand it's not going to be easy."

The Americans were sloppy with the ball and couldn't handle Italy's zone defenses and 3-point shooting. Italy not only made 15 from behind the arc but also showed superior ball movement and poise in handing the Americans their most lopsided defeat since pros began competing in 1992.

"They're going to be in for a lot of lessons for the next few weeks," U.S. coach Larry Brown said. "It's a young team, and it's a different game internationally."

Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony led the Americans with 17 points, and two-time NBA MVP Tim Duncan added 15.

Italy, whose roster is filled entirely by players from that country's league, was led by Giacomo Galanda's 28 points and Gianluca Basile's 25.

While the Italians were fifth at the Sydney Olympics, the United States is unbeaten at the

Summer Games and in Olympic qualifying since NBA players were allowed in 1992, taking four straight gold medals. It will seek a fifth in a row at the Aug. 13-29 Athens Olympics.

But the United States is sending its youngest team to the Olympics - the average age is 23 1/2 - since the door opened for NBAers.

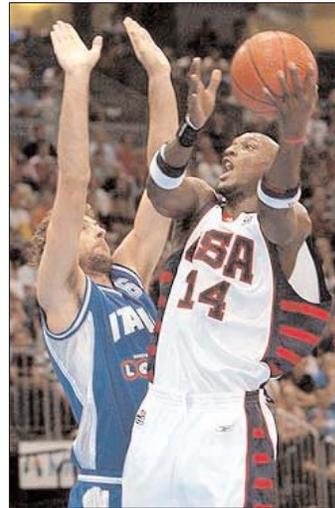
At the 2002 World Championships, an American team with NBA players was beaten for the first time, 87-80 by Argentina. The United States went on to finish sixth.

Iverson's jump shot trimmed Italy's lead to 56-52 with just under three minutes left in the third quarter. But the Americans never got closer. On Italy's next two trips down the floor, Basile made 3-pointers that stretched the underdogs' lead to 62-52.

Iverson winced when Massimo Bulleri made a 3-pointer despite falling down and having the past NBA scoring champion's hand in his face late in the third quarter.

The Italians were 15-

of-35 from behind the line, while Americans went just 4-for-13 justifying Brown's fears that his team might be short on pure shooters.



AP Photo

Lamar Odom tries to get a shot off against Italy's Giacomo Galanda during the USA's stunning loss to the Italian National Team, 95-78. The game was the first of a series of exhibitions in Europe leading up to the Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. "This is a wakeup call for us," said Philadelphia 76er guard Allen Iverson on the loss. "It's not going to be easy."



AP Photo

Center Tim Duncan (right) scrambles after a loose ball during Italy's 17-point upset of the highly-favored USA team. USA plays Germany Wednesday.

Sports Shorts

Palmeiro Ties the Bambino

BALTIMORE (AP) -- Baltimore Orioles slugger Rafael Palmeiro went two for three in a 9-7 victory over the Seattle Mariners to tie Babe Ruth on the all-time career hits list.

Palmeiro, 39, now has 2,873 hits, which tie him for 36th place in Major League Baseball history. Earlier this season, he passed Mickey Mantle to move into the 11th spot on the career home run list.

Yankees Sign Former Mariner

NEW YORK (AP) -- Recently released first baseman John Olerud signed with the New York Yankees, giving the club insurance at first while Jason Giambi is treated for a benign tumor. Olerud, released by Seattle on July 27, was hitting .245 with five homers and 22 RBIs in 78 games. He was released shortly after he nixed a trade to the San Francisco Giants. "I'm here to help out," Olerud said upon arriving in New York.

Mavs Trade Walker to Hawks

DALLAS -- The Dallas Morning News reported that the Mavericks have sent oft-disgruntled forward Antoine Walker and guard Tony Delk to the Atlanta Hawks in exchange for guard Jason Terry, forward Alan Henderson and a first-round draft pick. The Mavs were left with a huge hole to fill in their backcourt after free agent point guard Steve Nash left for Phoenix.