

## Oversight Key to Success

# \$1.3 Million Spurs Agriculture in Taji



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

**Maj. Terry Robey, (right) team chief of Team-5, 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, speaks with workers busy constructing a road in Al-Taji. The purpose of the follow-up mission was to assess the status and quality of work at nine different projects.**

By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel  
122nd MPAD

CAMP COOKE- With more than \$1.3 million invested in community enhancement projects in the Taji area, the need for quality control is critical. As initiators, contract negotiators and over-all project managers, civil affairs Soldiers also ensure that standards are met and projects are completed on time.

Making an assessment of projects currently on going within their area of operations, Soldiers of the 489th's Civil Affairs Battalion's Team-5 visited seven of their nine project sites July 3.

"Follow up and oversight is as important as starting a project," explained Maj. Terry

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## Baghdad's Largest Police Station Takes the Lead

By Sgt. Dan Purcell  
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq- Marking another turning point in the Transfer of Authority, Al-Bayaa police station commanders assumed operational control during an Iraqi flag raising ceremony atop their headquarters on July 1.

It was a modest ceremony attended by both Iraqi policemen and Soldiers of the 545th Military Police Company, 1st Cavalry Division. The event symbolized the return of Iraq's sovereignty.

Staff Sgt. Michael Ashcraft, 545 MP, said the transition also means changes for

both the Multi-National Forces and the Iraqi Police (IP).

"We don't have as much decision

making authority as we did before, but our mission still stays the same, which is train-

ing and assisting the IPs in their everyday missions," Ashcraft said.

**"We will continue to work side-by-side with them [IPs], but they will be the lead element."**

**-SSG Michael Ashcraft,  
545 MP**

"Currently, we are still conducting joint patrols, but as they become more skilled in their techniques we will remain to help facilitate problems they might encounter, or if they get into something they are not ready to handle right now," Ashcraft

said. "We will continue to work side-by-side with them, but they will be the lead element."

The Al-Bayaa Police Station is the largest in Baghdad and provides a base for three police headquarter elements, which cover the districts of Al-Bayaa, Al-Dora and Hayal Amel.

With the assistance of an interpreter, Colonel Safaa, IP commander for the Al-Dora District, wanted to convey his gratitude to the Multi-National

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## Focus on Agriculture Key to Success in 'Fertile Crescent' Area

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Robey, the team-5 chief. "Just like construction work and projects of this magnitude back in the states, ensuring that work is being done and that a certain level of quality is being met helps guarantee a project's success."

Robey and his team regularly visit locations during a project's life cycle.

"We try and visit each site

at least once a week," the Knoxville, Tenn. resident said. "The key to ensuring a successful project is consistent follow up. We work hand-in-hand with members of the Taji area neighborhood and district councils, with each group [Soldiers and council members] making regular visits."

Currently, the team is responsible for projects ranging from the refurbishment of two schools to the construction of

roads linking several villages to major roadways. But as Sgt. John Hultquist, civil affairs Sgt. explained, the emphasis is on projects with an agricultural focus.

"This area is part of what is known as the Fertile Crescent," explained Sgt. John Hultquist, a civil affairs specialist. Historically, he said, the Fertile Crescent is defined as the area beginning at the

Persian Gulf, bordered by the Tigris and the Euphrates, and ending in Syria.

"Agriculture is the main form of commerce in this area," Hultquist, hailing from Alcoa, Tenn. said. "Most of the projects we've done have that element in mind as part of the planning, even the roads we've constructed are meant to connect villages with roadways to local markets."

At the core of any agriculture project, especially in the arid desert landscape of Iraq, is irrigation.

"Of the nine projects we are currently involved in, four of them involve either building irrigation canals or improving existing waterways to more efficiently bring water to villages," Hultquist said.

Hultquist went on to explain that only through working with members of the Taji area councils was his team able to correctly identify the gasping need to bring relief to the area in the form of agriculture projects.

"The sheiks and imams of the councils were really instrumental in making sure that correct locations were identified and that money was put into those projects that would pay the biggest peace dividend," Hultquist said. "In this case, the key was agriculture."



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

**Iraqi project employees build the foundation of an irrigation canal in the village of Atia, Taji. Team-5 of the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion oversees nine projects worth more than \$1.3 million dollars, and employing 200 area Iraqis.**



# Professional, Polite, Prepared to Kill & Promise



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## IPS To Take Tough Stance Against Criminal Activity



**Staff Sgt. Michael Pentecost, 545th Military Police Company, 1st Cavalry Division, attaches the Iraqi national flag to a flag pole in preparation for a transfer of authority ceremony July 1, at the Al-Bayaa police station located in the Al-Rashid District of Baghdad. The ceremony included the raising of the Iraqi flag, symbolizing the Multi-National Forces hand off of operational control to the local Iraqi Police. The 545 MP, will continue to act as a facilitator and provide ongoing law enforcement assistance.**

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Forces.

"I am very happy about what has happened today, and I want to thank the coalition for the help they have given us to arrive at this point in our mission," Safaa said. "We still have a job to do. To achieve peace, we need to stop those that want to undermine Iraq."

In addition to taking a tough stance on the criminal elements who are trying to disrupt the peace process in Iraq, Safaa wants to build a better image of the Iraqi Police.

"It is very important for us to be able to work with the people, and it is my wish that in the future we can provide the stability they need," Safaa said. "We need the people's cooperation, so we can work together as one family."

By Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122nd MPAD

### Today in History

**July 14**

► From [historychannel.com](http://historychannel.com)

**1789** Parisian revolutionaries and mutinous troops storm and dismantle the Bastille, a royal fortress that had come to symbolize the tyranny of the Bourbon monarchs. This dramatic action signaled the beginning of the French Revolution, a decade of political turmoil and terror in which King Louis XVI was overthrown and tens of thousands of people, including the king and his wife Marie Antoinette, were executed.

**1955** Volkswagen introduced the Karmann-Ghia coupe at the Kasino Hotel in Westfalia, Germany. As the European car market finally recovered from the war, Volkswagen felt that it needed to release an "image car" to accompany its plain but reliable "Bugs and Buses." Volkswagen was not the only automotive company looking for a flagship car at the time. Chevrolet had released the Corvette, and Ford the Thunderbird.



### Today in Cav History

**July 14**



**1917** - 7th Field Signal Battalion was organized at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., later to become 13th Signal Company.

**1950** - The 1st Cavalry Division deploys to Korea.

**1951** - 2nd Battalion of the 7th Cavalry Regiment moved to Munsan-ni, forward United Nations peace camp, to serve as guards at the peace talk area under Eighth Army in Korea control.

**1969** - Command of the 1st Cavalry Division was passed from Maj. Gen. John J. Tolson to Brig. Gen. Richard L. Irby. Prior to taking command Irby was the assistant commander.

**Wednesday**

High: 110  
Low: 81



**Thursday**

High: 112  
Low: 82



**Friday**

High: 113  
Low: 82



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

### Iraqi Word of the Day

mortar

ha-wen



## Killeen's Downtown Area Needs Help

By Killeen Daily Herald

KILLEEN, Texas- As Killeen's commercial center continues its southward shift to U.S. Highway 190, some area leaders argue that the downtown district still has much to offer.

Killeen Councilman Dick Young remembers the downtown area of his youth as a thriving center of commerce that attracted people not just for its businesses but also for its character.

A walk down Avenue D or Gray Street today, however, reveals an area largely overlooked by city residents. Decaying and abandoned buildings line roads that once served as the core of the city.

"Downtown was a destination. That's where everything was, that was the heart," Young

said of the Killeen from his youthful memories. "What we've done is forgotten that the city can't run without its heart."

Young and others would like to see the downtown area return to what it once was.

Leslie Hinkle, Killeen director of community development, said overall the city has maintained an interest in pursuing redevelopment projects, but she said limited to no funding has continued to stifle plans.

Getting the funding may be a challenge, particularly since many proponents don't want to raise taxes for the effort. But it is an investment that some in the city feel would be worthwhile.

"It could be an attraction," Hancock said of the downtown area. "It could be somewhere to come."

## ► Where's The Train?



Temple Daily Telegram

**Angelina Hernandez, 3, plays Monday on one of the trains on display at the Santa Fe Depot Railroad and Heritage Museum. Angelina and her family were waiting for an Amtrak train which they will take to Michigan where they will visit her mother who has recently returned from Iraq.**

## Fort Hood Soldiers Build New Habitat

By Killeen Daily Herald

COPPERAS COVE, Texas- The house at the end of Sherry Drive in Copperas Cove is more than just concrete and wood. It is a testimony to the value of the partnership between the Killeen community and the Soldiers of Fort Hood.

Built by Alpha Company, 62nd Engineer Battalion from the 13th Corps Support Command, in a partnership with the Killeen chapter of Habitat for Humanity, it is the new home of Killeen native Joyce Rayford and her three children. A ceremony was held at the homesite Monday to show appreciation to the Soldiers' hard work.

"The Soldiers really are the heroes of this project," said Gene Bauer, the Killeen Habitat for Humanity's executive director.

The Soldier engineers spent the last five months not only building a house for a well-deserving family, but also getting valuable training, said 1st Lt. Robin Scott, the project leader.

"We have a platoon of carpenters, plumbers, and electricians," Scott said. "Building the house was great experience."

Habitat for Humanity has a partnership with the 62nd Engineer Battalion. This is not their first house-building experience — the Soldiers of the 62nd built a Habitat house in Killeen before their 2002 deployment to Iraq.

Many Soldiers volunteer their time building houses for Habitat for Humanity, but the 62nd Engineer Battalion is the only unit that devotes all of its time to building the house from the ground up. The Soldiers even worked separate day and evening shifts to get the project done, Bauer said.



Killeen Daily Herald

**1st Lt. Robin Scott, at left, inspects the retaining wall with Lt. Col. John Boule before a blessing of the home Monday in Copperas Cove. Soldiers from 13th COSCOM joined forces with Habitat for Humanity as they train for their next tour in Iraq.**

Bauer said that the Soldiers completed about \$100,000 worth of work on the home.

The ceremony was held before the completion of the four-bedroom, two-bath house because the Soldiers are getting ready to deploy to Eagle Pass to build a 250-foot-long bridge for Joint Task Force 6, which assists and supports law enforcement agencies on the southern border of Texas.

Lt. Col. John Boule, the battalion's commander, said the project was important for two reasons: to give the Soldiers a chance to give back to the community and for the training value.

"We owe it to the Army to keep our Soldiers trained," Boule said, "and we are also very proud to make this contribution."

## Seattle-Based Video Game-Maker Zombie Finds Its Niche

By *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

SEATTLE- When it comes to video games, what's every parent's deepest fear? Could it be their dear little ones turned into drooling, brain-dead lumps planted in front of the TV, clutching game controllers? Thus, in 1994, with a sly wink and a jab in the eye of the Moral Majority, Seattle game developer Zombie had its name.

You'd be forgiven if Nintendo and Microsoft were the only companies that came to mind from the Seattle-area's video and PC game cottage



Seattle P-I

**With video game budgets on the rise, Zombie Studios co-founder and co-CEO Mark Long, above, says, "It's a great time to be an independent developer."**

industry. They are indeed the giants.

Creator of such well-known military-themed games as the "Spec Ops" series, Zombie's latest shooter is "Shadow Ops: Red Mercury." Developed for Xbox, the game's cinematic approach and superb sound give the player a "you-are-there feel," Long says.

With annual revenues between \$3 million and \$5 million, Zombie employs 30 artists, programmers, producers and designers. Ninety percent of the crew is local, with new recruits coming from the Art Institute of Seattle, Digipen and the new game design program at the University of Washington.

Zombie's co-founder, co-CEO and executive producer of its flagship games, Mark Long, 46, is feeling enthused: "It's a great time to be an independent developer."

In between titles including "Zork Nemesis" and Disney's "Atlantis," Zombie has carved a niche for itself as creator of successful military-themed games, such as the "Spec Ops" series for

the original PlayStation, a PC expansion pack for Tom Clancy's "Rainbow 6" and the new Xbox title "Shadow Ops: Red Mercury."

Long's background uniquely qualifies him to do what he does. Before Zombie, Long led an R&D team developing a virtual reality game console at Stanford University's Sarnoff Research Center and was a senior engineer at General Dynamics, where he headed a colossal simulation of operation Desert Storm before the actual event. Long also retired as a major in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Nowhere is the accelerating blur between cinema and games more apparent than in Zombie's Xbox shooter "Shadow Ops: Red Mercury": Frank Hayden is a Delta Force vet recruited by the CIA to run and gun his way through exotic locales, tracking down a terrorist faction that possesses a mininuke.

With game consoles finding their way into many home-theater setups, audio is fast becoming as important as graphics in the new wave of cinematic



Seattle P-I

**Zombie Studios co-CEOs Joanna Alexander and Mark Long pose with their "monkey," an animation tool used to duplicate human movement.**

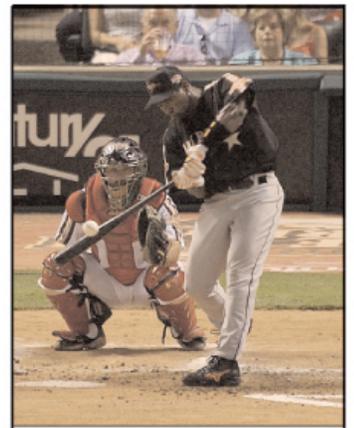
games.

Zombie and Soundelux came up with weapon fire, reload and empty chamber sounds unique to indoor, outdoor and urban environments.

The quest for authenticity continued through character design. Hayden, the game's protagonist, is from an "Other Government Agency," or OGA.

As rounds whiz by your head, radio chatter overwhelms your senses and you're scrambling around a bombed-out hell-hole searching for ammo, you'll know whom to thank.

TV GUIDE	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
6 p.m.	Popular Mechanics for Kids/ Liberty's Kids	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	Moto GP	Blaze 5 p.m.
7 p.m.	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 7:30 p.m.	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
8 p.m.	ESPNNews/ Headline News	The Prince of Tides	Tour de France - Stage 10	The Simpsons/ Happy Days
9 p.m.	8 Simple Rules.../ The Bernie Mac Show			The Amazing Race
10 p.m.	Fear Factor	Evil Dead II 10:30 p.m.	MLB All-Star Game - American League vs. National League	Andromeda 10:30 p.m.



AP

**Baltimore Orioles' Miguel Tejada hits his winning home run in the final round of the All-Star home run derby Monday, July 12, in Houston.**