

## 3rd Brigade Funds Sewer Project



By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD

Work begins on one of three Baghdad sewage projects organized by the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. Local workers are important because they foster community pride in the projects.

By Spc. Jan Critchfield  
122nd MPAD

ZAPHERNIA, Baghdad, Iraq- Correcting malfunctioning sewer systems has been a priority for Baghdad leaders for a long time, but no funds were available for the project. That's until the coalition stepped in to help the community.

Ceremonies marking the beginning of three sewage pipeline projects in the Zaphernia neighborhood took place July 14.

Acting in an organizational capacity, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, provided funding to hire local contractors to start the work. Hiring local help is important, because it fosters community pride in the project.

Around 300 laborers will be needed for the project.

"We went out there and saw the area and were appalled at the living conditions," said Capt. Brad Morgan, construction officer for the 8th Engineer Battalion, the unit responsible for the organization of projects

in Zaphernia.

After witnessing the severity of the problem, Morgan said it wasn't difficult to find the funding needed to try and get the raw sewage from the streets of Zaphernia.

The three projects are tentatively planned for completion in mid-January.

A poor, predominately Shia Muslim neighborhood neglected under the rule of Saddam Hussein, Zaphernia's antiquated sewers have become more of a liability than an asset for the area.

"Currently, there's no sewer system in that area so you have raw sewage in the streets and backing up into people's homes," Morgan said. "Even if the existing lines do flow in the right direction, the untreated waste still goes directly into the Tigris and Diyala rivers."

When coalition sewage projects are completed in the area, a large line will take sewage from the local networks to a treatment plant that

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## 72 Hours in Baghdad

### *Hitting the Streets with the Arkansas Infantry*

By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae  
Bruns

39th Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs

The Patrol – Friday, 8:00  
p.m.

The evening Muslim call

to prayer melodically echoed across the sky from a nearby mosque, while Soldiers hustled about their Humvees making their last minute preparations for patrol.

They gathered for their mission brief, finished up their

sodas and took the last drags off their cigarettes. The mission for the evening was simple enough. The platoon would patrol their zone, look for suspicious activity, and then drive over to another patrol base to pick up mail before heading

back home for a few hours of sleep.

The Soldiers jumped in their vehicles, donned their gear, and took to the streets.

As they drove through the neighborhood, the aroma of

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# Leishmaniasis: 'Baghdad Boil' Bothersome

By Spc. Michelle Newbold  
1st Cavalry Division PAO

CAMP VICTORY  
NORTH- The disease dubbed the 'Baghdad Boil' has been making an unwelcome appearance in Iraq. Leishmaniasis, its formal name, is caused by a



Photo courtesy of Color Atlas of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology

**The sand fly, which causes leishmaniasis, is about one-third the size of a mosquito. Leishmaniasis, or 'Baghdad Boil,' can cause lesions on the body that can scar if left untreated. Using insect repellent, mosquito netting and treating uniforms with permethrin can help combat the problem.**

bug that is one-third the size of a mosquito. The bug may be small, but it can pack a punch.

There are two forms of leishmaniasis. Both forms are caused by the bite of a sand fly. The most common form of leishmaniasis is cutaneous; once someone is bitten lesions appear, but not immediately.

"Wounds from [the cutaneous variety] can show up as soon as two to three weeks after the bite, or as long as three years," said Maj. Gary Aspera, the 1st Cavalry Division's deputy division surgeon. "The average time is about six to eight weeks." The open lesions have been described as "volcano like" in texture.

"It's like an insect bite that doesn't heal, it gets bigger and bigger and has a central core," Aspera said. The wounds may be painful. Although cutaneous is not fatal, the disease can leave nasty scars.

Once someone starts getting these lesions, they should seek medical attention. A biopsy is one way to diagnose leishmaniasis. A picture can be taken of the wound and sent to a laboratory that specializes in skin diseases. Once leishmaniasis is confirmed, the Soldier is sent to Walter Reed Army

Medical Center in Washington D.C. for further treatment.

"The Soldier will go through intravenous drug treatment that lasts about twenty days," Aspera said. "Studies show there is a ninety-eight percent cure rate."

The problem with the treatment at Walter Reed is that the drug has various side effects.

"Liver and kidney function must be monitored during the treatment," Aspera said.

The other form of leishmaniasis is visceral. The visceral form can be fatal if left untreated.

"It is not as common, but more seri-

ous," Aspera said. Some of the symptoms of visceral leishmaniasis include fever, chills, and weight loss.

"It is often mistaken for malaria," Aspera said. The time it takes to for the symptoms to appear is similar to the cutaneous form, which is usually

within months.

The treatment for visceral leishmaniasis is also the same as cutaneous. Soldiers are sent to Walter Reed for intravenous drug treatment.

Personal protective measures are important when it comes to avoiding leishmaniasis.

"Using insect repellent is

important," Aspera said. It is also advised that Soldiers use mosquito netting. Protective clothing is key in the evening.

"Long sleeves should be worn at night, when the sand flies are the most active," Aspera said. "They can still feed during the day, though."

Uniforms should be treated with permethrin, an insecticide.

Even though leishmaniasis is not often deadly, Soldiers should still be vigilant in their protective measures. Taking the necessary precautions can save Soldiers from problems in the future.

**"Long sleeves should be worn at night, when the sand flies are the most active."**

**-MAJ Gary Aspera, Deputy Division Surgeon, 1st Cav. Div.**

**Tuesday**

High: 108  
Low: 79



**Wednesday**

High: 110  
Low: 81



**Thursday**

High: 114  
Low: 83



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

## Iraqi Word of the Day

rifle

bun-duq-ee-yeh

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## Bustling Streets Fade Into Quiet, Only to Come Alive Later

### Continued from Page 1

Iraqi food from outdoor restaurants and corner food stands filled the night air.

"Everybody's out tonight," said platoon leader 1st Lt. Michael McCarty, of Bono, Ark. People bustled about weaving through the tiny streets full of vendors selling their wares mixed with brilliant displays of melons and colorful hanging fruit.

In the gun turret of the Humvee, Sgt. Raif Rucker, 21, of Forrest City, Ark., scanned the rooftops, and alleys for lurking danger.

Rucker, a college student at the University of Arkansas, should have graduated this year with the rest of his friends but two deployments in three years with the Arkansas National Guard has left him behind at the sophomore level. Like other college students in his position, he's anxious to get the deployment over so he can return to the states and finish what he started.

"It's okay as long as I graduate," said Rucker cautiously. "I haven't even started half my life yet."

The patrol moved further down the street and turned a few corners leading into narrow alleyways barely wide enough to fit a Humvee. After three months in country, the drivers have become masters at maneuvering vehicles between spaces that might otherwise seem impossible.

They approached a park with children playing on swing sets and other park toys. Their mothers, wrapped in traditional Muslim headscarves, sat nearby watching, as they casually talked among themselves.

"They usually shoot mor-



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

**Cracks spider their way across Sgt. Christopher Grimm's Humvee windshield. The cracks, damage from an IED and mortar attack, are a reminder to the Soldiers of 'near misses' they have experienced, as Grimm puts on his microphone headset in preparation for his next mission.**

tars at us from here," said McCarty referencing the park as they drove by.

The park, despite its now seemingly normal activities, has on many occasions been used as a platform to lob mortars at the platoon's base. Just two nights before they endured a mortar attack that sent 18 rounds into their compound. Surprisingly, no one was killed.

After patrolling their area, they moved to the battalion's patrol base to pick up mail and fuel up before heading back for some sleep. Other than the normal activity of the city, their evening was quiet.

**Observation Posts – Saturday, 1:30 a.m.**

After a short nap, the Soldiers stepped out into the yard, and the dogs, who have made their home with them, began barking. The night

cooled just enough to permit a small breeze, but the heat still lingered from the pavement.

After loading into his vehicle, Sgt. Christopher Grimm, 35, of Cabot, Ark., pointed to different cracks in the windshield of his Humvee.

"This one is from a mortar attack and this one here is from an improvised explosive device (IED)," Grimm said, as he recounted the damage of near misses and 'close calls.' "Whoever invented bullet proof glass ... it works."

His gunner, Rucker, wasn't as lucky. Sitting in the turret, he is often left exposed to blasts and other enemy elements. When they were hit by the IED, Rucker was struck with shrapnel in his right shoulder, but he knows it could have been worse.

The platoon left the com-

pound and began their drive. As they moved through the city in the late hour, the streets had the feel of a lazy dream. The shops were closed and all the hustle and bustle of earlier festivities had ceased.

After several minutes of winding through empty streets and darkened alleyways, the line of Humvees came to a slow halt. Soldiers got out of their vehicles and milled about, while three others quietly disappeared into the shadows of a dilapidated building with a small supply of food and water.

The insertion is a bold move to locate insurgents who have been firing mortars on their compound. Hidden from sight, much like snipers, they wait. For up to three days, they stay hidden, patiently watching

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## Today in History

July 20

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

**1948** President Harry S. Truman institutes a military draft with a proclamation calling for nearly 10 million men to register for military service within the next two months. Truman's action came during increasing Cold War tensions with the Soviet Union.

**1969** At 10:56 p.m. EDT, American astronaut Neil Armstrong, 240,000 miles from Earth, speaks these words to more than a billion people listening at home: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." A moment later, he stepped off the lunar landing module Eagle and became the first human to walk on the surface of the moon.

## Today in Cav History

July 20



**1945** - The 1st Cavalry Division Regiments were organized wholly as Infantry, but retained their Cavalry designations.

## 3BCT Focuses On Essential Services

Continued from Page 1  
is currently being renovated as a part of another project.

"The ultimate goal is to treat the sewage instead of polluting the local rivers," he said.

Essential services such as electricity and water are also a priority in the area.

"We're showing them that we truly do care for them and we do want to make their lives better," Morgan said. "Everyone that we've encountered down in Zaphernia has been excited about the projects."

## 'Knife & Diamond' Makes Itself Known

Continued from Page 3

for possible enemy activity.

The remaining soldiers loaded back up into the vehicles, inserting several more teams throughout the area and then moved back to their compound.

The platoon, a battle-tested bunch of southern boys from Arkansas, is known around the area for their tough stance. The patch they wear on their shoulder, depicting a knife and diamond has become folklore on the streets. It is said, by some Iraqis that in order to wear the patch, the Soldier had to kill someone with a knife.

Once in the compound, everyone remaining in the platoon took turns on radio watch. If there was enemy activity, the teams would radio in and the platoon would have to be ready to roll at a moment's notice.

**Enemy Contact – Monday, 2 a.m.**

Screams of "Let's go! Let's go!" filled the building as Soldiers stumbled out of their cots grabbing their gear and

weapons. The location of one of their teams had been compromised. The enemy knew where they were.

They jumped in the Humvees and fanatically drove through the streets of Baghdad at wild speeds, running lights and jumping curbs – Soldier's lives were at stake.

Getting to the team's location is a race against time for the platoon. Between the moments the OP has been discovered and the time it takes for the arrival of help, it's a gambler's throw of the dice – a crapsfoot of possible events.

The vehicles came to a screeching halt. Soldier's jumped out - adrenaline pumping – and looked around for blood trails as they secured the area.

From darkened shadows three Soldiers calmly appeared on the street and threw their gear into a nearby Humvee.

"They were shooting wildly into my observation post," said Staff Sgt. Ronald Woods, 35, of Little Rock, Ark. "I was in harm's way, so I made a decision to fire."



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

**Sgt. Raif Rucker, of Forrest City, Ark., mans the M240B machine gun for his team. Manning his weapon in the turret of his vehicle is a dangerous job, which helps protect his fellow team members while out on missions.**

Woods has spent time in several different OPs and they are never the same. He has laid in rotting trash next to dead animals and even spent two days lying in a stairwell.

In the last month alone they eliminated two rocket-propelled grenade teams, two to three mortar men, and a man trying to sneak up on an OP with a grenade.

The platoon sergeant found a large pool of blood on the pavement and the Soldiers followed its trail into a darker, more populated neighborhood. But the trail came to an abrupt halt.

**Next stop - the hospital.**

The Iraqi police were already waiting at the hospital when the platoon arrived looking for the two men Woods shot. The insurgents had been there but were told by the doctor their wounds were too extensive for him to treat. They would have to go to another hospital that was better equipped. To the Soldiers' dismay, the other hospital was out of the platoon's jurisdiction.

They loaded up once again and rolled back towards their compound. The Iraqi police would have to handle this one.

Everyone was safe, the team was picked up without injury, and Woods was able to give a sigh of relief.

Rucker sat in the gun turret with the night air hitting his skin as they moved down the road. He watched the rooftops and the alleyways – just in case.

"With all the things that's happened here, the first thing I'm going to do when I get home – that first Sunday – I'm going to church," Rucker said.

## Smith Knows How to Pick His Summer Flicks

By AP

The boy of summer is back. Since the mid-1990s, Will Smith practically has owned July, delivering hit after hit, his charm often enough to draw in audiences even for bad movies.

This July, Smith is trying something different. "I, Robot," loosely adapted from the short stories of Isaac Asimov, has more smarts than the usual Smith summer movie, preserving much of the philosophy that made sci-

fi master Asimov's tales a blueprint for fiction about human-machine interaction.

Yet "I, Robot" also delivers the brawn, action and wisecracking that audiences have come to expect from Smith this time of year in such flicks as "Independence Day," the "Men in Black" movies and last year's "Bad Boys II."

"I think when we look back in 50 years, the one discernible skill that Will Smith will have displayed is the ability to choose

a summer movie. I think that is my skill more than anything," Smith, 35, told The Associated Press, recalling with a laugh how he's scored hits with movies critics trashed, such as "Independence Day" and "Wild Wild West."

"I am a serious summer movie fan, and I know the type of movie that needs to be in July. I have a sense of what audiences want to see. What I hoped to develop with 'I, Robot' was the ability to push it forward."



20th Century Fox

Will Smith's hunt for a killer draws the attention of one very special robot, Sonny (left, performance created by Alan Tudyk). Tudyk, who played the neurotic Gerhardt in Sandra Bullock's "28 Days," was last seen in "Dodgeball" as Steve the Pirate.



scores as of July 19  
8 p.m. PDT

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

Minnesota 3  
Detroit 1

Tampa Bay 9  
New York 7

Chicago  
Texas

Baltimore  
Kansas City

Cleveland  
@ Anaheim

Toronto  
@ Oakland

Boston  
@ Seattle

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Montreal 6  
Pittsburgh 2

Cincinnati 8  
Milwaukee 4

Florida 6  
New York 5

Atlanta 4  
Philadelphia 2

St. Louis 5  
Chicago 4

Los Angeles  
@ Houston

San Diego  
@ Colorado

San Francisco  
@ Arizona

TV GUIDE	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
6 p.m.	Lizzie McGuire/ All That!	Tonight Show with Jay Leno	MLB - Texas Rangers @ Chicago White Sox 4 p.m.	Star Wars: Episode VI: Return of the Jedi 4 p.m./ Ebert & Roeper At the Movies
7 p.m.	Jeopardy!/ Headline News	The Late Show with David Letterman	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
8 p.m.	ESPNNews/ Headline News	Access Hollywood/ High School High	ESPNNews/ Baseball Tonight 8:20 p.m.	The Simpsons/ Happy Days
9 p.m.	7th Heaven		Beyond the Glory	Ed
10 p.m.	Gladiator	Patriot Games	MLB - St. Louis Cardinals @ Chicago Cubs	ER

FIRST TEAM