



Spc. Sarah Houtler (left) and Sgt. Danielle Derosier, both of Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division, sit on the most popular of three bikes on display during the "Brotherhood of Bikers" rally held on Camp Blackjack July

24, a Russian copy of a BMW motorcycle. "I don't ride yet, but I like this," Derosier said. "I might try riding someday." (See page four for continued coverage of the rally).

## Engineer Company Brings Relief to Sewage Problem

By Cpt. Zachary Miller  
20th Engineer Battalion

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Block-by-block Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division's 20th Engineer Battalion are taking aim at one of the most disagreeable problems facing Baghdad's largest and most dangerous neighborhood. Sadr City, home to more than 2.5 million people, has been awash in standing sewage for years – the result of a system designed 25 years ago for a population one fifth of what it must now support.

The heart of the system is a network of 15 lift sta-

tions that remove sewage from the streets and residences. Years of neglect have left them in failing condition, operating at perhaps 30 percent of their original capacity. It is these stations that were the first target in the war for sewage-free streets in Sadr City.

The project, overseen by Company C, 20th Engineer Battalion, aimed to completely rehabilitate two of these stations. At a cost of just over \$235,000, Iraqi contractors who were selected in conjunction with the city of Baghdad's



Photo Courtesy 20th Engineer Battalion

20th Engineer Battalion Soldiers enter the newly renovated Sewage Lift Station #1 in eastern Baghdad to conduct an inspection of the facility. The engineer unit is focusing its efforts on sewage stations in the vastly overpopulated Sadr City district of Baghdad.

public works, completed the repairs in a little over two months.

"We were able to repair or replace all the electrical

**Continued on Page 2**

# Stations Fixed; Electricity Next

**Continued from Page 1** controls, pumps, and mechanical systems that make these stations run” said 1st Lt. Gary McDonald, a Company C platoon leader and one of the project managers.

Additionally, the projects upgraded the existing force protection measures at the stations. Barriers that were once falling apart were replaced with nine-foot high walls and reinforced gates. Both the city and the project developers are hopeful that the improved protection will keep criminals and looters away from the station and ensure they continue to operate at full capacity.

Perhaps the most noticeable construction is a new residence for the operators, who not only work, but also live at the pump station.

“What struck me the most was that the family

who ran the station lived in a house built out of scrap metal,” said Staff Sgt. Darron Adams, a squad leader in charge of one of the engineer teams on the project. “I can’t imagine that they were too motivated to do their job when they were living in such poor conditions.”

After removal of the family’s dilapidated home, a three-room house was built in its place, providing significantly better accommodations for a family of five.

Though the Soldiers can look proudly on the finished facilities, they know that completing them was no trivial matter. The two lift stations are in one of the worst parts of Sadr City. On three separate occasions, the team assigned to check up on progress and ensure that work was being completed properly came under attack

from enemy forces.

During the most intense of these engagements, one Soldier suffered minor wounds from a grenade, becoming perhaps the first soldier awarded a Purple Heart while attempting to repair a sewage lift station.

“This can be a dangerous place, but getting the local population working on improving their own city is definitely going to help tip the scales in our favor,” said 1st Lt. Seth Pruett, another platoon leader who helped in the effort. “As we get more projects going and things keep getting noticeably better, I know we will win over more Iraqis.”

With their first project behind them, the engineers have quickly turned their attention to the next challenge. The unit, in conjunction with the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity, is preparing

to provide dedicated power lines to eight sewage lift stations in Sadr City. By installing underground power lines, the city will be able to continue pumping sewage even if the power goes off in other areas around Baghdad.

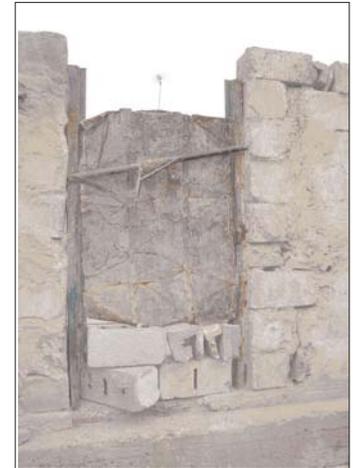


Photo Courtesy 20th Engineer Battalion  
In stark contrast to the renovations made, the original entrance of Sewage Lift Station #1 stands as a daily reminder of past neglect.



## SAFETY TIP Driving

► Sometimes you can't predict every hazard-like the road collapsing under your vehicle.

**But-you can ALWAYS take the time to buckle up and wear your Kevlar. If you do, you might walk away from an accident uninjured.**

### Tuesday

High: 114  
Low: 86



### Wednesday

High: 114  
Low: 86



### Thursday

High: 114  
Low: 82



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

## Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

How much/many?

kaam

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## Beantown Convention Underway

BOSTON (AP) – Bill Clinton was expected to get a hero's welcome, but Sen. John Kerry was cast in the lead role as Democrats opened their presidential nominating convention in

his backyard Monday determined to put him in the White House.

“Our objective is to show the personal side of Senator Kerry – his character, his Vietnam service, his

leadership qualities,” New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, the chairman of the four-day convention, said Monday on CNN's “American Morning.”

The convention formally got underway when Democratic National Chairman Terry McAuliffe brought down the gavel shortly after 4 p.m. A full evening of speeches by the party's biggest names was focused on Kerry's stated vision for America: a strong economy, a growing middle class, affordable health care and a beefed-up military.

Clinton, the last Democrat in the White House, arrived in Boston

riding a wave of attention in the wake of his autobiography, but he dismissed any idea that he might overshadow Kerry.

Clinton said Sunday, “I'm going to give a talk and get out of town.”

Kerry previewed some of the issues he will highlight at the convention during a visit Monday to Kennedy Space Center in the key state of Florida.

“We need to push the curve of discovery,” Kerry said. “We need a president who believes in science and who's prepared to invest America's efforts to cure Parkinson's and AIDS and diabetes and Alzheimer's and do stem cell research.”



By Bryan Snyder, Reuters

Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe officially opens the presidential nominating convention Monday in Boston.

## Station Donates to FRG

News 10 (KWTX-TV) and Time Warner Cable answered the call of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) to ‘Adopt-A-Unit.’

At 3rd Brigade's headquarters on Fort Hood, this partnership delivered to the Family Readiness Group of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment (Garry Owen) of the 1st Cavalry Division on behalf of this unit's 600 soldiers deployed to Iraq digital cameras and DVD recorders.

This equipment will be used by the families of 2/7 soldiers to record video letters to their loved ones in Iraq.

Rear detachment commander, Captain James Wanner, will be responsible for training FRG volunteers to use the equipment and will establish rooms in the

Family Readiness Group area where families may record personal messages and children will feel comfortable talking with mom or dad on camera.

Time Warner Cable Waco Division President Johnny Mankin, provided hundreds of DVD copies of movies or made for television series.

Likewise, KWTX-TV General Manager, Rich Adams, provided DVDs from Buena Vista Television, 20th Century Television, Paramount, Warner Brothers, and King World Productions.

HBO and Showtime have also given DVDs which will be distributed by the Army to deployed soldiers of our adopted unit and to wounded soldiers hospitalized at Darnall Army Community Hospital at Fort Hood.



Photo courtesy 39th Support Battalion

Members of the 39th Support Battalion pose with some Iraqi workers they helped with donations sent from the Lonoke Baptist Church. Most of the clothing items were for the children of the Iraqi workers.

## Church Group Gives Clothes

CAMP COOKE, Taji, Iraq — Guarding Iraqis while they work around the camp, Sgt. Jeremiah Pitts, (pictured far left), has grown to know many of the workers personally.

In an effort to help these individuals, members of the 39th Support Battalion, led by Capt. Gib T. Richardson, (pictured center right), took an offer for assistance and handed it

over to the Iraqi workers under his charge.

“Several members of my church asked if there was anything I needed over here,” said Richardson, commander of Company A.

Taking his advice, the Lonoke Baptist Church did just that.

Within a few weeks, the workers received the boxes of new clothes.



Photos by Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

Maj. Paul Krantz (left), brigade surgeon for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team helped organize the biker rally on Camp Blackjacket July 24. (Above) Attendees sign banners, to be mailed to Fort Hood area sponsors who provided more than \$1000 in prizes for a raffle benefitting the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

## Blackjack Brings Together Brotherhood

By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel  
122nd MPAD

CAMP BLACKJACK, Iraq – Experiences shared in a time of war thread together the lives of those involved into a tapestry few experience. When pieces of home are woven into the whole, like a well-made quilt, the bond formed becomes tighter; stronger.

Organizers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division brought together Soldiers and civilians of Camp Blackjacket and Camp Victory alike in a “Brotherhood of Bikers” gathering July 24.

“I’m a biker!” said the organizer of the event, Maj. Paul Krantz, 2nd BCT’s Surgeon, “And these are my brothers and sisters!”

Admission was free to all, but for five dollars attendees received a custom T-shirt commemorating the event as well as a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of more than \$1,000 worth of prizes donated by various motorcycle shops around the Fort Hood area.

“Once I started putting

the word out about trying to get this all together, the help and support just started pouring in,” said Krantz, who rides a 2001 Harley Fat-Boy that he’s customized into a Road King. “Folks from KBR [Kellogg, Brown and Root] donated food and non-alcoholic beverages, and I had a lot of help from folks in the brigade and division.”

Sgt. Maj. Merle Henry, the division retention senior advisor, was one of those individuals who came to Krantz’s aid.

“We in the retention business sell the Army, so we really know how to get the word out about events,” said Henry, who enjoys riding his Fat Boy with his wife, who rides a Sportster. “I knew this was something I wanted to help out with and be a part of.”

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Thomas of Company D, 15th Forward Support Battalion, provided the soundtrack as people sat on picnic tables eating barbecue, talking about their motorcycles and the rides they intend to take once they get home.

“I bought a 2004 Harley Dyna Glide here that I just can’t wait to try out once I get home,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ken Gutchak of Headquarters Company, 91st Engineer Battalion. “Being here, at this rally, is a good thing.”

As the sun set on the day, banners thanking Fort Hood area sponsors were laid out and Soldiers swarmed to sign them, thanking the businesses for their support.

All proceeds generated from the sales of T-shirts and raffle tickets benefited the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

Notably absent at the rally was the signature leather attire common to biker clubs, but the group was tight-knit just the same.

“My brother and I have ridden to several rallies,” said Sgt. Frank Novak, Company E, 15th FSB. “You can take the bikes out of the rally, you can’t take away the camaraderie and the good times events like this bring, this is a real morale booster.”

## Russian-Made Bike the Belle of Biker Bash

CAMP BLACKJACK, Iraq — “It’s just one of those things that make this place feel a little more like home,” said Sgt. 1st Class Shayne Dumas, motor pool sergeant, Headquarters Service Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, during a ‘Brotherhood of Bikers’ event July 24.

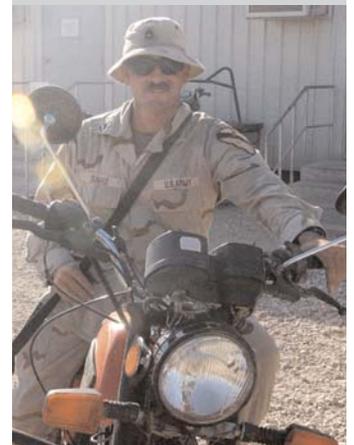
Dumas was one of several participants who brought along his motorcycle for display during the festivities.

“It’s Russian made, but it would be equivalent to about a 250cc,” he said.

Originally, Dumas picked up his bike from some engineers when he first got here and uses his knowledge and experience to keep it running.

“I have always loved motorcycles,” Dumas explained.

“When I get home, I plan to go on the Sturgis bike rally,” Dumas said of the South Dakota bike enthusiasts’ get-together. “It’s been my dream for a long time.”



By Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122nd MPAD  
Sgt. 1st Class Shayne Dumas sits astride his Russian-made 250cc motorcycle.