



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

Airmen Rebuild Plumbing System

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BAGHDAD, Iraq - Inter-service ribbing is a way of life in the military, and more specifically for a detachment of airmen who now find themselves surrounded by the Army at Camp Hope (formerly known as Camp Eagle) in eastern Baghdad.

"Some of the guys here kind of tease us for being Air Force," said Staff Sgt. Carlos Franco, Det 3, 732nd ECES, a slight chuckle escaping from him, "right up to the point that they find out we're fixing their bathrooms and showers. Then they just love us."

Detachment 3, 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, United States Air Force, is attached to the 1st Cavalry Division. Their task at

Camp Hope is remodeling latrine and shower facilities in the barracks.

"We were assigned down here to work with the Army's 411th Engineering Company," said Senior Master Sgt. Ron Schulz, Detachment 3 noncommissioned officer in charge, 732nd ECES. "Material for the project was already purchased... so we've been lucky in that we've been able to get right to work."

With the 732nd being an expeditionary squadron, airman from Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, Mountain Holm Air Force Base, Idaho, Whiteman AFB, Missouri, and Eielson AFB, Alaska were grouped to staff the unit that currently calls Camp Victory, Baghdad its home. But Schulz noted, with the airman of his unit temporarily

Continued on Page 2

Staff Sgt. Carlos Franco, Detachment 3, 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, attaches a piece of piping to a drainage line. Franco and members of his detachment are working at barracks around Camp Hope to remodel and fix shower and latrine facilities.

Firefighters Receive Training in Baghdad

By Sgt. 1st Class
Clarence Kugler
478th Civil Affairs Battalion

BAGHDAD, Iraq - There are 25 fire stations in Baghdad. They are scattered on both sides of the Tigris River.

The firefighters working in these stations are some of the most heavily worked firefighters in the world, according to Maj. Alan Leitschuh of the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion, a Miami,

Fla. reserve unit supporting the 1st Cavalry Division for Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

The need for firefighters has been so great in Baghdad that many of the new hires have had no formal firefighter training. They have been thrown into action with on the job training mixed with responding to actual emergencies.

Leitschuh, a firefighter with the Fort Myers, Fla., Fire Department; along with Maj. Mark Shankle, of the

1st Cav. Div. Government Support Team; and Capt. Richard Daniels, a hazardous material expert from Palm Beach County, Fla., decided to put a firefighter training program together that would be aimed at the current Baghdad firefighters who lacked formal firefighter training.

The program began in April and has included training in basic firefighting skills such as fire behavior, fire control, ropes and knots,

self-contained breathing apparatus use, drivers safety and first aid.

"It is important that the new hires learn a standard way of doing procedures so that everyone can work together," Leitschuh said. "We are stressing fighting fires with the same techniques throughout the city of Baghdad."

"I expect to train about 500 Baghdad firefighters. Since the training is in the

Continued on Page 2

Hope Gets New Pipes

Continued from Page 1
living on this forward operating base, they have learned first hand the importance of their mission.

"We live here with the Soldiers on the FOB, so we've seen and heard the mortars that impact here," Schulz said. "As it is right now, many of the shower trailers and latrines are outside with little to no protection for Soldiers or airman needing to use them, not to even mention



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

Airman 1st Class Ryan Schempp, of the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, uses a jackhammer to drill a hole in the floor for piping that will bring water for new showers.

having to go outside their barracks just to get to them."

The detachment is scheduled to remain with 1st Brigade Combat Team Soldiers of Camp Hope for four to six weeks, giving the airman plenty of time to get to know and work with their Army brethren.

"It's been a real pleasure working with the Soldiers of the 411th Engineering Company and seeing how they operate," said Schulz. "They seem to be more of a heavy equipment type unit whereas we have more specialty type people, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air-conditioning) so we're able to complement each other's staff very nicely."

Cutting a piece of pipe to fit as a shower drain, Franco commented that all the members of the detachment have taken their current mission to heart and are working as fast as possible to complete it.

"We're doing this right and we are trying to do this as quickly as possible," he said, "so guys don't have to have to worry about getting killed while using the latrine."



By Sgt. 1st Class Clarence Kugler 478th Civil Affairs Battalion

Maj. Alan Leitschuh, 478th Civil Affairs Battalion, demonstrates proper knots and lifting procedures to Baghdad Fire Fighters during a training class.

Firemen Train for Skills

Continued from Page 1
infant stages, there must be ongoing training in the fire stations, in the classroom and with hands on instruction to solidify and reinforce training," he added.

Camp Mancini, the home of the 478th in the International Zone, has been the training center for the Baghdad firefighters. Last week fire trucks were

brought to the camp and the firefighters worked on safe fire hose operating procedures and standard operating procedures for lifting equipment to rooftops.

"There is a brotherhood among firefighters that runs through our training," Leitschuh said. "We are all committed to saving lives and doing it in a manner that is as safe as possible."

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

There are people injured.
hunaak naas muSaaboon

Wednesday

High: 102
Low: 73



Thursday

High: 104
Low: 74



Friday

High: 106
Low: 76



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

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News Notes

Native Culture Museum Opens

WASHINGTON, D.C. (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*) - The National Museum of the American Indian opens today, a spectacular symbol of the cultural and political renaissance of the nation's "first people." With its sinewy limestone facade and prime spot on the National Mall, the 254,000-square-foot museum is a visually stunning showcase of 10,000 years of American Indian art, history and culture. W. Richard West, the museum's founding director said he hopes the museum serves as "an instrument of enlightenment, helping our visitors learn more about the extraordinary achievements of the indigenous people of the Western Hemisphere."

Ark. Campus Draws 1000s to Rock Vote

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (*Democrat-Gazette*) - Since its founding in 1990, Rock the Vote, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, has registered about 3 million voters. Booths for that purpose had steady business on Sunday at Central Ark. University, although the longest lines were at a Ben & Jerry's ice cream truck and for corporate giveaway competitions. Conway police said there were no arrests and the crowd was well-behaved. Hendrix officials estimated the crowd at about 3,000 while Conway police said about 2,000 showed up at the college athletic fields next to the Hendrix campus on U.S. 64.



Tim Thibodeaux works Monday on Big Tex, the 52-foot-tall talking cowboy figure, to get him ready for the opening of the State Fair of Texas in Dallas. The fair opens Friday and runs till Oct. 17. Big Tex made his debut at the 1952 State Fair of Texas. Wearing size 70 boots and a 75-gallon hat, Tex towered 52' above wide-eyed visitors. Cosmetic surgery the following year straightened his nose, corrected a lascivious wink and allowed him to talk.

Rules Clarify Vet Rights

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Bush administration proposed new regulations Monday aimed at clarifying employment protections for veterans and reservists returning from active duty.

"This is a major step in ensuring that the brave men and women who are risking their lives to preserve freedom and democracy have their jobs and benefits protected when they return home," Labor Secretary Elaine Chao said of the proposal.

The 1994 Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, says veterans and reservists returning from active duty generally must be rehired in the job they would have attained, with the same seniority, status, benefits and pay, had they not left.

There are exceptions. For example, if an employer lays off workers and eliminates a soldier's job, the company does not have to provide a job when the Soldier returns. Generally, Soldiers retain their employment rights for up to five years of military service.

The regulations, which

department officials said have been in the works for about three years, were intended to clarify the obligations of employers and the rights of returning service members under the law.

For example, the law requires that a returning service member be "promptly re-employed." The new regulations say employers generally must rehire a returning soldier within two weeks of application for re-employment.

There are exceptions. If several years have passed, an employer may need more time to reassign current employees.

The public has 60 days to comment on the regulations and to propose changes.

Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Committee on the Education and the Workforce, has been pushing for simple rules that clarify the law. He praised the new regulations. "These men and women are our nation's heroes and we need to do everything we possibly can to protect them against discrimination and job loss as they return to the workplace," he said.

The Labor Department said it has received 3,850 formal complaints from returning Soldiers from Oct. 1, 2001, through Sept. 14 of this year. Before troops were mobilized to Afghanistan and Iraq, the department averaged about 900 formal complaints a year.

Soldiers' complaints were upheld or settled by the department in about a third of cases, while another third were found to have no merit. The remaining cases are inactive or closed, often because the government lost contact with the soldier or the soldier returned to active duty.

Of 424,765 military personnel mobilized after Sept. 11, 2001, about 262,152 have returned home, the department said. But guard and reserve troops are serving extended tours of duty, and thousands of former soldiers are starting to be recalled.

The Labor Department investigates complaints it receives, and those with merit that aren't resolved are referred to the Justice Department and the Office of Special Counsel, which handles complaints from government employees.

Eagles Stuff Vikings on MNF

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Donovan McNabb didn't need much of Terrell Owens on Monday night. Daunte Culpepper could have used a lot more of Randy Moss.

In a strange game featuring lots of long drives but not many points, the Philadelphia Eagles rode the running and passing of McNabb past the Minnesota Vikings 27-16. Of the four big offensive stars, only McNabb glittered, and Culpepper hurt his team badly with a fumble inside the Philadelphia 1-yard line.

The Eagles' 2-0 start at the Linc is a switch from last season, when they lost the first two games at their new home. The Vikings (1-1) have lost 16 of their last 17 outdoor regular-season games.



Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb pushes away Vikings cornerback Antoine Winfield Monday in Philadelphia.

Neither defense was particularly responsible for the lack of scoring. Time-consuming marches ate up chunks of yards, but the end zone was elusive for

Minnesota until 3½ minutes were left - even though the Vikings had the ball for nearly 38 minutes.

That was not problematic for Philadelphia because McNabb made several big plays in throwing for 245 yards. He passed for two scores, including the clincher to Owens for 45 yards with 7:40 remaining, and ran for another.

Otherwise, Owens, who had three TD receptions in his Eagles debut last week, didn't have a big impact with four catches for 79 yards.

Moss, whose costly offensive pass interference penalty was his most noteworthy play until a 4-yard TD catch in the final minutes, did have eight receptions for 69 yards.

Twins Clinch Wildcard in Win vs. Cubs

CHICAGO (AP) - As Torii Hunter stood in the middle of the Minnesota Twins' raucous clubhouse, two teammates sneaked up from behind and threw a cooler full of water on him.

Hunter didn't even flinch. If anything, the grin on his face got a little brighter. After everything the Twins have endured the last couple of seasons, it's going to take a lot more than cold water to spoil their party.

"Every year we've got to go out there and prove to somebody. But you know what? I like it," Hunter said after the Twins clinched their third straight AL Central title Monday night with an 8-2 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

"We're the underdogs, and we've got something to prove every day," he

said. "That's our motivation, to go out there and prove people wrong."

The game was all but over after the first inning, when Hunter and Corey Koskie each hit a two-run homer off Mark Buehrle. Though they were forced to play host to someone else's party, the White Sox never put up much of a fight.

The Twins hung over the railing in front of their dugout for the final inning, and manager Ron Gardenhire inserted Jacques Jones, one of the few players left over from the team that was threatened with contraction, as a defensive replacement so the veteran could be on the field.

When Timo Perez popped out to shortstop Cristian Guzman for the final out, the Twins rushed onto the field, turning sec-



Minnesota Twins' Corey Koskie celebrates with teammates in the clubhouse after they beat the Chicago White Sox, 8-2 Monday. Second base into an impromptu mosh pit.

After bopping around and hugging for several minutes, they walked toward the dugout to shake hands with the coaching staff.

In Brief

Tom Green Films in Little Rock

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Democrat-Gazette) - Tom Green and a film crew arrived in Little Rock on Thursday to shoot a segment of his regular feature that appears on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. *Tom Green's Most Interesting People* profiles people, state by state. This week was Arkansas' turn. Green's subject? William Bell of Jonesboro, who at 82, can still pole vault more than seven feet.

Cubs Win, Lose Wildcard in a Day

MIAMI (AP) - The Chicago Cubs' 24-hour visit to Miami included a brief stay atop the NL wild-card standings. Then they lost their lead because they couldn't beat David Weathers. The journeyman right-hander, making his first start in six years, limited Chicago to two hits and one run in five innings, and the Florida Marlins won 5-2 for a split of their doubleheader Monday. With the victory in Game 1, Chicago climbed one percentage point ahead of San



Francisco in the wild-card race. But the Cubs ended the day where they started: a half-game behind the idle Giants.

"We've been knocking on first place for a while," Chicago manager Dusty Baker said.