

Troopers Instruct Iraqi Cowboys

By Staff Sgt. Susan German
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Trading computers and badges for saddles and spurs has provided a welcome break for troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division's Horse Cavalry Detachment working with Saddam Hussein's former horses at the Baghdad Zoo.

After months of desk duty guarding the Division main headquarters building, the Soldiers recently had the opportunity to get back in the saddle, while also educating the horses' Iraqi handlers about suitable horse care and training techniques.

Before their deployment to Iraq, detachment Soldiers spent their time performing at parades, rodeos and fairs throughout the United States. Daily duties included maintaining their herd of horses and mules, and equipment required for their performances. Some of the Soldiers are also trained saddle makers, farriers (horse shoes), boot makers and veterinarian technicians.

Staff Sgt. Robert Bussell, Headquarters deputy commandant, 1st Cavalry Division, is the platoon sergeant and saddle maker for the detachment back at Fort Hood. Experience gained while growing up around horses on his grandparents' farm in eastern Texas coupled with his time at Fort Hood lends credence to the advice he



By Staff Sgt. Susan German, 122nd MPAD

Staff Sgt. Robert Bussell, deputy commandant for the 1st Cavalry Division, examines the nose of Al-Adul, a seven-year-old stallion which once belonged to Saddam Hussein and his family.

passes on to the Iraqi veterinarians and caretakers. Because the horses belong to the state, it's up to the Iraqis to make the decisions on their care and handling, Bussell said.

"There's a lack of knowledge on some of the modern equine skills, such as medications, training techniques and doctrine that can be used for the animals," Bussell said. "We're trying to get them as much information as we can to make a better future for the animals and the people here."

At one time the horses numbered nearly 100, but traumatized by war their numbers have dwindled.

The remaining horses were gathered up after the war was over, according to Bussell, and 19 horses currently reside at the zoo.

Veterinarian Wasseem Wali, has worked at the zoo for a year and with the Americans for the past six or seven months. Although his specialty is caring for the lions which also live at the zoo, he is learning about horses, and even pitches in to assist the stable help when necessary.

The horses were originally stabled at Camp Victory, with subsequent moves to Abu Ghraib, the University of Baghdad and their most recent home, the zoo. While a horse is not

your typical zoo animal, Saddam's former horses are biding their time surrounded by more common zoo inhabitants like camels and ostriches, until the time when more appropriate facilities can be built for them.

Long term plans include building a 100-stall stable, an exercise area and an equine education center in Baghdad.

"After these [new stables] are built, the situation will change for the better," Wali said. "I think the future will be good."

"The horses are important to the Iraqi people, especially Arabic horses," he added. "Their history is with the Arabic people."

Logistics Cell Kept Najaf Teams Ready

By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde
122nd MPAD

CAMP TAJI, Iraq-In the heat of battle, when bullets are whizzing overhead and rockets are exploding nearby, the last thing a Soldier wants to hear is the subtle "click" that signals he is out of ammunition.

"Our mission was to provide [1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment] with anything and everything they may have possibly needed," said Philadelphia native Master Sgt. Harold Allen, noncommissioned officer in charge of an eight-person logistics cell with the 1st Cavalry Division's Division Support Command which forward deployed to support troops conducting combat operations in An-Najaf.

"Each individual was tasked to take care of a specific area, but as a team we provided all classes of supply. From medical needs and mortuary affairs to tires, fuel and ice. Anything you can think of, our job was to get it to them. The only thing we needed them to do was fight a battle, not be worried about the items they needed. That was our responsibility."

Located just outside the forward edge of the battle area for the duration of the 30-plus day battle in An-Najaf, the eight-man logistics cell received supply requests from logistics elements within 1-5 and 2-7 Cavalry Regiments. They then sent those requests to their supply headquarters. The turn around time for re-supply varied depending on the priority level, but thanks to modern technology, the logistics team was able to respond to the various supply needs in a timely manner without interrupting the battle rhythm.

"If a unit needed something, the web-based tools I had provided me visibility across the theater and the states at the wholesale level to find the part or item needed and get it shipped to a re-supply point," said Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Haygood, a materiel management NCO. "Every day was busy. If I wasn't doing research and communicating with the units for what they needed, I was coordinating for the receipt and issue of supplies that came in. Once [the supplies] hit the ground, we got it distributed to the appropriate task force."

After arriving in An-Najaf, the first order of



By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, 122nd MPAD

During their 30-plus day mission in An-Najaf, the logistics team, Division Support Command, 1st Cavalry Division, coordinated and delivered more than 360 tons of classes of supply to the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment's task forces.

business for the crew was to identify any immediate needs of the task forces they were supporting.

Though Haygood received priority levels of supply, the Hartwell, Ga. native who calls North Little Rock, Ark. home, placed a high level of

emphasis on all supply requests.

"As soon as a tank goes down or a Bradley [Fighting Vehicle], I was immediately trying to find that part," Haygood said. "Everything was a priority in my mind as far as keeping a combat system going."

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

How are things?
kayf al-amoor

Thursday

High: 106
Low: 73



Friday

High: 105
Low: 73



Saturday

High: 105
Low: 73



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

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli

Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. James Hutton

122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Cmdr.: Maj. John Fuhrman

Public Affairs Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen

1st Sgt. 122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment: 1st Sgt. William Kuhns

Editor: Spc. Andy Miller

Staff Writers: Sgt. 1st Class Tony Sailer, Staff Sgt. Susan German, Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, Sgt. Dan Purcell, Sgt. Christina Rockhill, Cpl. Benjamin

Cossel, Cpl. Bill Putnam, Spc. Jan Critchfield, Spc. Marie Whitney, Spc. Erik LeDrew, Spc. Al Barrus, Pfc. Brian Schroeder, Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin.

The Daily Charge is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of **The Daily Charge** are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of **The Daily Charge** is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

Editorial

The last thing a mother, or wife, wants to hear is that her son or husband has been killed in action. Worse is to get the information, not gently from a military chaplain or sympathetically from a company commander, but on the evening news.

As the horrific details of the incident are revealed, on question burns: How did the media get notification before the families?

Revealing sensitive information over unsecured lines is not a violation of any law. The rules governing the release of information concerning our wounded and dead come from Dept. of Defense policy.

But where does the media get sensitive information in the first place?

Often it's an e-mail sent home following a mission: "Honey, I'm OK, but my squad leader Sgt. John Doe Died."

That e-mail gets forwarded with the click of a mouse. Soon the wrong people have sensitive information, and it's the scoop on the evening news.

The Army has a system in place to handle family notifications, and no information should be released without first going through the proper chain of authority.

Don't be the person who compromises the mission or causes unnecessary pain and suffering to family members back home.

Think before you hit the send button.

Team Honors Detroit Fan, Father, and Husband

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (Detroitlions.com)-- The Detroit Lions' extended family increased in numbers today, all for the sake of honoring a fallen fan.

After Friday's practice, the club welcomed the 14-member Thomas/Coleman clan to the team's headquarters, to posthumously celebrate the life of United States Army Sgt. Carl Thomas, a Detroit native and lifelong Lions fan, who was killed on Sept. 13 in Baghdad, Iraq -- when an improvised explosive device detonated near his observation post.

Along with Thomas, 29, Staff Sgt. Guy Stanley Hagy, Jr., 31, was killed in the explosion. The two Soldiers were indirect fire infantrymen in the 12th Calvary Regiment.

The Lions family received word of Thomas's passing in unique fashion. An Army specialist in Iraq (surname Carroll), wrote a Sept. 14 email, detailing the following:

"My name is Spc. Carroll. I am a Soldier in the 1-12 Cav 1Cav Division. Yesterday morning, myself and the rest of my platoon woke up around 0400 hours for our daily patrol of Baghdad. In my platoon was a good man and friend named Sgt. Carl Thomas of Detroit. We had woken up early that day because we wanted to find out all of the football scores from the day before. He, of course, wanted to find out about the Lions. That morning, he had a smile on his face because we saw that the Lions had beaten the Chicago Bears



Detroit Lions.com

Lions cornerback Fernando Bryant with Dariaun Thomas, 10.

for their first victory of the year. Later that morning, Sgt. Thomas was killed by a road-side bomb on a street in Baghdad.

"I am writing this in hope that someone on here will somehow know how to forward this to the Lions Organization. I just wanted to thank them for what they do by giving us a distraction from the world we live in today. And just to let them know...a Lions fan died that morning with a smile on his face because his team won the night before...Thank you for reading this, and say a prayer if you will for Sgt. Thomas and his family."

Upon hearing the unfortunate news, the Lions immediately tried contacting the Thomas/ Coleman group (through the Army's casualty division), to express club sympathies and offer them the chance to

visit the team headquarters. The family jumped at the opportunity to honor Thomas.

Upon arriving Friday, the family -- led by LaNae Thomas, Carl's wife; her three children, Dariaun, 10; Nataisha, 9; Rayqwaun, 5; and a handful of others -- met and spoke at-length with players and coaches, received signed Lions merchandise and were given the grand tour of the team's facility.

"(The tour) was beautiful," said Charlene Coleman, LaNae's mother. "It was an exciting thing for us, because of the children. This was always something (Carl would) talk about with his children; about the Lions...they were always his favorite team. It was nice; it was really awesome for us."

A native of Detroit (and noted Barry Sanders enthusiast), Carl Thomas moved with his father to Phoenix at age 12 and concluded his schooling in Arizona. While at Phoenix's Maryville High School, Thomas met LaNae, and the couple soon married as "high school sweethearts," she said.

Shortly thereafter, Thomas (whose nickname was "Crit") enlisted into the U.S. Army to build a better life for his family. The Thomases are currently based in Fort Hood, Texas.

"Oh, my husband would have loved this; it would have been perfect for him," LaNae said. "He would have had a ball; he was into the Lions, he kept up with everything...this would have been like a dream come true for him."

Astros Closing on Wildcard

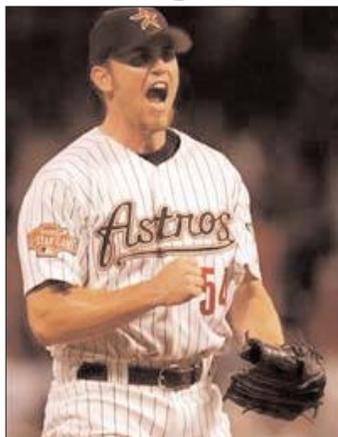
HOUSTON (AP) - Reggie Sanders slid into home plate, kicking up a cloud of dirt and chalk.

When the dust cleared, the Houston Astros had stopped St. Louis from scoring and were on their way to a critical 2-1 win over the Cardinals on Tuesday night.

Houston moved within a half-game of Chicago for the NL wild-card lead. The Cubs lost to Cincinnati 8-3 at Wrigley Field. San Francisco (87-69) was also a half-game back, percentage points ahead of Houston (88-70), before playing at San Diego later.

Carlos Beltran threw out Sanders from center field, completing a fifth-inning double play before scoring the go-ahead run in the bottom of the inning.

"I knew it was a do-or-



Houston closer Brad Lidge pumps his fist after sealing a 2-1 win over Chicago.

die play," Beltran said. The throw "was a little bit off-line, but Brad did a good job of bringing it back. I don't know if (Sanders) was out or not."

Sanders and Cardinals manager Tony La Russa

vigorously protested the call to no avail.

"I couldn't tell whether he scored or not," Houston catcher Brad Ausmus said. "The dirt and the chalk was coming up in my face. It was flying everywhere. I haven't seen a replay and I couldn't tell whether the call was right."

Replays appeared to show Sanders was safe.

"The umpire was right on top of it," La Russa said. "You play nine innings, that's just one out. It looked to me like Reggie beat it."

"After a game like tonight," Backe said, "you can't help but think we're on fire and things are going our way."

The Astros clinched the best September winning percentage in franchise history.

In Brief

Fastest Roller Coaster Built

JACKSON, N.J. (AP) - Six Flags Great Adventure is opening the world's tallest and fastest roller coaster this spring - a thrill ride that accelerates to 128 mph in 3.5 seconds and rises 456 feet off the ground. Plans for Kingda Ka, which is expected to be the cornerstone of new development at the central New Jersey amusement park, were to be unveiled Wednesday. The current speed and height record holder is "Top Thrill Dragster" at Cedar Point amusement park in Sandusky, Ohio.

Expos Moving to Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) - Major League Baseball will announce Wednesday that Washington will be the new home of the Montreal Expos, bringing the national pastime back to the nation's capital



for the first time in 33 years, The Associated Press has learned. A city official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Washington has been notified by Major League Baseball of the impending announcement. Baseball has been looking for a new home for the Expos since the financially troubled team was bought by the other 29 major league owners in 2002.

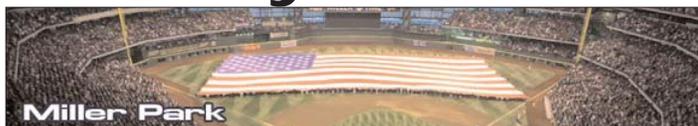
L.A. Investor Buys Brewers

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Los Angeles investor Mark Attanasio bought the Milwaukee Brewers from the family of baseball commissioner Bud Selig on Tuesday.

Daniel Gilbert, the founder and chairman of Quicken Loans, said Monday that he was told the team had selected another buyer and a lawyer in baseball, speaking on the condition of anonymity, confirmed that Attanasio's offer was orally accepted by the Brewers' board last week.

Attanasio and the team are in the process of drafting the sale agreement, the lawyer said.

The Brewers' acceptance was first reported by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on its Web site.



Milwaukee Brewers

The Brewers were believed to be seeking more than \$180 million for the team, which has been sold to Los Angeles investor Mark Attanasio.

"I am deeply disappointed that the Brewers have chosen another direction in the sale of the club," Gilbert said. "After nearly eight long months of negotiations, I believed we were on the verge of announcing a deal when I was informed of the Brewers' decision to sell the team to another party."

The franchise started play as the Seattle Pilots in 1969 and was bought by Selig in bankruptcy proceedings and moved to

Milwaukee before the 1970 season.

Selig's family owned the majority interest in the team - 26 percent - but Selig hasn't drawn a salary since becoming commissioner full time in 1998.

Attanasio is a chief investment officer in the investment firm Trust Company of the West, which provides asset management services to foundations, including the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation in Milwaukee.