

## Shias Set to Make Annual Pilgrimage

By Spc. Andy Miller  
122nd MPAD

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq - A person approaching Baghdad from the North or the West will encounter the site of the four golden minarets of Kadhamiyah. This site marks a Shia Muslim holy shrine of the burial site of Imam Musa al-Kadhim the seventh of the 12 Imams, or saints, of Islam.

Shias from around the Middle East have been making an annual pilgrimage to Kadhim's tomb as part of an Islamic rite of passage ever since his death in 799 A.D. Multi-National Forces in the Baghdad area can expect an influx of Shia pilgrims to the Kadamiyah area before and during the day of visitation, which falls on Sept. 10.

While actual numbers are difficult to predict, Soldiers patrolling the Baghdad area can expect up to 500,000 pilgrims to visit Kadhim's tomb, according to Capt. Ray Buenteo, a civil affairs planner with headquarters company, 1st Cavalry Division.

Shia events like this one were suppressed under Saddam Hussein, and his arrest has allowed Shia Muslims to practice their religion with more freedom. The confusion often caused by a mass movement of people like this can provide cover for anti-Iraqi forces, Buenteo said. During the Islamic holy day of Ashura last March, suicide bombers attacked Shias paying their respects at the Kadhamiyah shrine killing 58 and wounding 200.



Courtesy Iraqi Ministry of Information

Imam Musa Al Kadim, the 7th Imam of Islam, was buried at the actual spot of this Mosque in Al Kadimiyah in 799AD. Since then, the shrine has become a pilgrimage site for practitioners of Shiite Islam from around the world.

According to Isa Bassari, a cultural adviser with the 1st Cav. Div., it is important for Soldiers in the area to make a distinction between Shias making

a peaceful religious pilgrimage, and insurgents who may hide within their ranks and attempt to cause disruptions as they have in

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## Medics Help Iraqi Communities With Free Clinics

By Sgt. John Queen  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq - On Aug. 28, Soldiers of Washington's Army National Guard attached to the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, set up two MEDCAPs in the Baghdad area.

Dubbed "Operation Weeping Sore," they treated more than 200 Iraqi men, women and children for a variety of medical problems that ranged from the common cold and cough to diabetes, rheumatism and gastric disorders.

"By doing this, we're spreading good will and showing that, yes, we are truly here to assist Iraq in its rebuilding and that the people here are not forgotten," said Capt. Doug Baer, medical platoon leader for Washington's 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment. "We're just here to help."

Early in August, members of the local Neighborhood Councils, asked for a MEDCAP or some other project to help out their communities.

Each MEDCAP was run much like a general clinic in the United States. As

patients arrive, they were triaged by medics to determine if they needed to see a doctor or if their problem could be remedied by self care.

"We send them through triage and see what their problem is," said medic, Sgt. Ben Seims of 1-161 INF. "If we can treat it with just pain killers or eye drops we do that, if it's anything more serious we send them to the docs."

Even though most of the Iraqis had minor problems, one little girl showed symptoms of cerebral palsy.

"What she needs is

physical therapy," Wayne said. "In the states, it's mandated that children receive it. But here they don't have the same kind of laws."

All together the MEDCAP had more than 100 Soldiers and interpreters operating the sites.

Baer said a problem the medical team faced was the language barrier. Although there were a number of interpreters on site, more could have been used because of the numbers of patients the MEDCAPs received.

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# Shia Pilgrimage

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the past.

"The pilgrims aren't going to be a problem, they came to take the blessing and go home," Bassari said. "The problem is going to be the insurgents."

Jake Lester, a cultural adviser with the 1st Cav. Div. has experienced similar Muslim religious event in Egypt. He said Soldiers can expect large crowds and lots of noise in the days leading up to the event.

"Expect a lot of noise, bodies pressed together like you would not believe, and watch out for the pickpockets, they're going to be everywhere," Lester said. You're going to have people [selling] things all over the place. If you don't speak Arabic you're going to be terrified because, there are going to be people singing, there are going to be people shouting, there are going to be people basically abasing themselves in front of this

martyr. It's going to be sheer chaos. Watch it from far away and you'll see a method to the madness, but inside there you'll only see the madness."

Buenteo added that Americans should probably stay away from the pilgrims, but remain prepared to offer assistance if needed. He mentioned that Soldiers should make themselves aware of cultural differences, to reduce the chance they will disrupt and offend the pilgrims during their holy rituals.

"There are cultural events, sub-events going on within this event, and if you think you are helping and you may be violating their ritual," Buenteo said. "And specifically, they may be dehydrating, but they are fasting, and they cannot drink water, and if you give them water or something, you could basically disrupt their pilgrimage."

**"The pilgrims aren't going to be a problem."**

**-Isa Bassari**

**1st Cav. Div.  
Cultural  
Adviser**



By Sgt. John Queen, 3rd BCT Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Jeffery Haugh, a member of the Maryland Army National Guard, checks a sick Iraqi boy's throat for abnormalities. Haugh, a civilian physician that lives near Emmitsburg, Md., took 90 days off from his practice for the deployment.

## Free Clinics for Iraqis

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"You have to have lots of interpreters," he said. "There is no such thing as too many."

Due to time constraints, the teams could only stay at each site about three hours and only treat the immediate health problems.

"We're not on the ground or as long as we would like to be," Baer said. "And we're unable to treat everybody. We end up turning some people away just because of the

time."  
The Soldiers left the site wishing they had more time to come back and see the same people and follow through with their care.

"We can fix them now, but without the follow up care there is no way you can change the way they are living," Seims said. "They need the same thing we did today but on a regular basis. But we can't do that, they just need clinics to be able to do that, which they just don't have."

**Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases**

**what does this mean?**

**Ma MA'Na HAZa**

**Tuesday**  
High: 112  
Low: 82

**Wednesday**  
High: 113  
Low: 82

**Thursday**  
High: 113  
Low: 84

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

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## News Notes

### Ancient Bison Bone Found in Texas

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) -- A research dig on the site of a proposed Lubbock zoo has turned up a piece of an ancient bison bone. Daniel Rafuse - one of a three-person team from Texas Tech University and the Lubbock Lake Landmark working the site - said that the bone was found nearly 7 feet below the surface. Based on that and the color of the soil surrounding the fragments, Rafuse estimated that the bison roamed the area between 6,000 and 8,000 years ago.

### USS Linclon to Deploy Next Month

EVERETT, Wash. (AP) -- The USS Abraham Lincoln will leave on deployment in mid-October, not early next year as the Navy had previously planned. The Everett-based aircraft carrier was last deployed for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, spending 290 days at sea. The Nimitz-class carrier, which has a crew of about 5,000 when its air wing is on board, returned to Everett in May 2003, shortly after President Bush swooped in on an S-3B Viking jet and declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended. The Navy said the carrier would deploy to the western Pacific, but it was not known whether it would be returning to the Persian Gulf and the war in Iraq.



Seattle Times

Whale watchers from Canada get their money's worth as a transient orca breaches while feeding off Stuart Island. The whale watching industry has tripled in the last 15 years, to the point that the orcas of Puget Sound are now relentlessly tracked all summer long, seven days a week. But now some island locals and orca advocates, dismayed by what they see as a noisy assault on the pods, are pushing for cutbacks in the tours.



Cove Herald

Administrative Assistant to the city manager Kelly Dix and Recreation Facilities Supervisor Jan Murphy stack together donations of stuffed animals and hygiene supplies at the Turkey Creek Activity Center.

## Copperas Cove Sends Packages to Troops

COPPERAS COVE, Texas (Cove Herald) - In a couple of weeks, Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division deployed in Iraq will receive boxes full of stuffed animals and hygiene supplies. The mixture of kid fun and bare necessities may seem strange, but Kelly Dix, administrative assistant to the city manager, said the cases of donations will be welcomed by the troops.

"That's what they've asked for," Dix said referring to the Soldiers' requests for toys that can be handed out to the children of Iraq. "It's just to show the kids that they're there to help." For the past few months the city of Copperas Cove has been actively participating in the adopt-a-unit program. Positioned at numerous

municipal buildings are boxes to gather donations of toys, stuffed animals and school supplies. "It's been very successful," Dix said of the donation boxes.

"This will definitely help the Soldiers build a rapport with the children," Wagoner said motioning to the bags filled with stuffed animals. Wagoner said winning the kids over early will help to instill a positive view of American Soldiers.

This is the third shipment that the city has sent to the troops. The first contained dozens of homebaked cookies and the second was 12 cases of supplies similar to the city's latest shipment. To ensure that the packages make it to the sponsored unit, the boxes will be shipped through the 1st Cavalry Division rather than the U.S. Post Office.

## Hollywood Breaks Summer Record

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Summer at movie theaters was a true underdog story for Michael Moore and a gang of dodgeball dimwits, who helped propel Hollywood to another season of record revenue, though the number of moviegoers fell slightly.

Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" became the first documentary to top the \$100 million mark, while Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn's goofy comedy "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story" was another surprise \$100 million hit.

Teamed with such familiar favorites as "Shrek," "Spider-Man" and "Harry Potter" sequels, "Fahrenheit 9/11" and "Dodgeball" helped lift the industry to an all-time summer haul of just under \$4 billion from the first weekend in May through Labor Day, according to box-office tracker Exhibitor



Christine Taylor, Vince Vaughn and Ben Stiller found expected success in "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story." The comedy earned \$100 million

Relations. That's up 3 percent from the previous record of \$3.9 billion set last summer.

But like summer 2003, higher admission prices meant fewer tickets were sold. Exhibitor Relations estimates moviegoers bought 637.8 million tickets domesti-

cally this past summer, down 0.76 percent from 2003.

Overall, the quality of movies this season proved better than summer 2003, when many moviegoers were disenchanted by a barrage of lackluster sequels, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations.

## Top U.S. Tennis Stars Win

NEW YORK (AP) -- Serena Williams served notice that her shaky knee is holding up just fine, sweeping past Patty Schnyder 6-4, 6-2 Sunday to set up a showdown with Jennifer Capriati in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open.

Once again dressed in basic black, the two-time Open champion had little trouble in winning her fourth straight match at Flushing Meadows. Williams won this one with her serving, finishing with 12 aces to just one double fault.

Williams was forced to pull out of last month's Olympics because of pain in

her left knee. She had surgery on it in August 2003, and missed 8½ months while recovering.

Capriati weathered a rough patch late to get past No. 12 Ai Sugiyama 7-5, 6-2. Capriati was broken to 5-3, allowing Sugiyama to serve for the opening set, but took four straight games - barely.

Serving while trailing 5-4, Capriati faced a set point, erased when Sugiyama sent a forehand long to end an 18-stroke exchange. Ahead 6-5, Capriati produced her first three double-faults, escaping when Sugiyama missed another forehand.



Williams returns a shot to Patty Schnyder during their U.S. Open fourth-round match Sunday. Williams, the No. 3 seed, won 6-4, 6-2. The win puts her in the quarterfinals.

## Sports Shorts

### Gold Winner is Greeted in Texas

ALLEN, Texas (AP) -- Thousands lined the streets of Carly Patterson's adopted hometown Saturday, honoring the 16-year-old gymnast who joined Mary Lou Retton as the only American women to win the all-around gold medal. Girls with pig-tails held signs such as "Allen's Golden Girl" and "Way to Gold, Carly," while five teenage boys painted their chests red with "C-A-R-L-Y" spelled out in bright blue letters. Along the parade route, spectators screamed with delight as the Allen High School marching band played and Patterson smiled and waved from the back seat of a black convertible. Police estimated the flag-waving crowd at 10,000.

### Cowboys Release 12 in Final Cut

IRVING, Texas. (AP) -- Jamar Martin, a promising fullback who struggled on special teams, was one of 12 players released Sunday by the Dallas Cowboys. Even with all the moves, it doesn't mean the roster is set for



next weekend's season opener at Minnesota. Parcells, who wasn't available for comment Sunday, and Jones are still looking."We are looking and listening. The phones are fairly busy today," Jones said.