



By Spc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

Capt. David Minascheck, civil affairs officer for the 3-82 Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, offers a backpack and a handshake to Iraqi primary school children in the Al Mansour District of Baghdad Oct. 9, as a part of Operation Virtual Pencil. The Soldiers gave out 1100 backpacks to children attending two area schools as part of the operation which will supply a total of 1700 backpacks to three area schools. Other school supplies were donated by American companies, and will be distributed to students at a later date.

## 'Virtual Pencil' Brings Smiles and Backpacks

By Spc. Al Barrus  
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - As 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers from Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, pulled up to the gates of a primary school in Al Hateen, children and parents gathered with bright eyes.

The Soldiers dismounted and gathered at the back of a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle (LMTV) that accompanied the Humvees in the convoy there. They unloaded pallets holding gifts for the children at the school: backpacks for every student without one.

"Today we conducted a portion of Operation Virtual Pencil," said Capt. David Minascheck, 3-82 FA's civil affairs officer. "We went to two schools in our area, and gave out 1100 backpacks to those students who needed one."

His battalion's part in this operation included supplying a total of 1700 backpacks among three schools in their area. A third school will be given their 600 backpacks at a later date.

"We set up our part in this project with the Ministry of Education by gathering the school's head mistresses and asking them what they needed for their schools," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Falcone, a

team leader in Company A, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion. "[The] division gave us these backpacks to distribute, and some private companies from the [United States] are donating other supplies which we can distribute at a different time."

Though the battalion has dozens of other schools in their area, this project can only focus on a few, and choosing these certain schools came with consideration. These schools had already been given facelifts with refurbishing projects completed this summer, Minascheck said.

"The reason we picked them is we wanted to con-

**Continued on Page 2**

### It's Time for Voting, Now

Armed Forces Absentee Voting Week ends Friday. Soldiers who are registered to vote should send their state absentee ballot, or federal write-in ballot by Oct. 15 to ensure it reaches local election officials in time.

If you have requested an absentee ballot and have not received one, or have not requested a ballot but are a registered voter, you can still vote using a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot for General Elections form.

To vote using a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot for General Elections form, go to your local post office, or contact your S-1 officer for your write-in ballot, fill it out, and mail it on or before Oct. 15 to ensure a successful vote.



By Spc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

Sgt. 1st Class Lynn Wilkerson, a platoon leader in the 3-82 Field Artillery Regiment, carries an armful of backpacks for children in Al Mansour.

## School Supply Donation a Hit

**Continued from Page 1** centrate on that area because there has been some problems there," Minascheck said. "This way we get the word out on the street by giving them a refurbished school and a backpack to get started up."

According to 2BCT civil affairs (S-5) each battalion will supply backpacks among three to five schools in their sector,

with the brigade giving a total of 15,000 backpacks to Iraqi children at 33 schools in the 2BCT area of operations.

This project doesn't stop at 2BCT either. Operation Virtual Pencil is a 1st Cav. Div. wide civil military operation to make school a little easier for children in Baghdad, at the same time helping make the job easier for Iraqi Security Forces.

### Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Is there any mail for me?

hal hunaak rasaa'il lee



### LEISHMANIASIS

Leishmaniasis is a disease caused by a parasite and spread by the bite of infected sand flies. There are several different forms of Leishmaniasis. Most common is the skin form (cutaneous leishmaniasis), which causes scarring skin sores. The internal form (visceral leishmaniasis) affects internal organs and is the most serious. Sand fly season in Iraq runs from April through November and peaks in September or October. While treatment is available, prevention remains the best option.

### PREVENTING LEISHMANIASIS

The best way to prevent leishmaniasis is to prevent sand fly bites. There are no vaccines or pills you can take to prevent it. To decrease your risk of being bitten, you should:

- ◆ Stay in air-conditioned tents from dusk to dawn when possible.
- ◆ Stay in well-screened tents if air-conditioned tents are not available.
- ◆ Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks when going outside. Tuck undershirts into pants and pants into boots.
- ◆ Insect repellent should be applied liberally on uncovered skin and under the ends of sleeves and pant legs. Repellents containing 35% concentrations of DEET are effective for about 4 hours. Repeat as directed.
- ◆ Clothing should be sprayed with insecticides containing permethrin.
- ◆ When sleeping in an area without air-conditioned tents or proper screens, use a fine mesh bed net (at least 18 holes per inch) and tuck it under the mattress. The bed net should be soaked or sprayed with permethrin because the sand flies are small enough to pass through even fine mesh bed nets through even fine mesh bed nets.

#### Thursday

High: 95  
Low: 70



#### Friday

High: 97  
Low: 72



#### Saturday

High: 99  
Low: 74



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, Staff 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.

## News Notes

### Dallas is Fined for Gorilla Escape

DALLAS (Dallas Morning News) - A \$10,000 fine has been levied by the U.S. Department of Agriculture against the city over the March escape of a gorilla from the Dallas Zoo, officials say. Zoo officials have said that Jabari, a 340-pound gorilla, leaped across a moat and wall before going on a 40-minute rampage. Four people were injured before police shot and killed the gorilla. The city attorney's office says it is reviewing the letter from the Agriculture Department. Zoo officials said the penalty was contained in a letter sent in September.

### Courthouse Restoration Halted

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (Dallas Morning News) - Old graves were damaged during excavation work related to a Cameron County project, the executive director of the Texas Historical Commission said. The graves were discovered two weeks ago when construction workers unearthed a utility line-trench on the county parking lot across from the Dancy Building, the historic courthouse that is being restored. The excavation on a county parking lot has been halted. "Based on the field evidence and limited archival information, it is highly probable that the human remains encountered are part of a city cemetery that was established in 1848," F. Lawrence Oaks said.



Killeen Daily Herald

Eric Richards and Ronika Anderson climb stairs as they search for Reggie Devore, lying above them at right, during a training academy exercise for the Killeen Fire Department.

## Student's Skills Put to Test

TEMPLE, Texas (Temple Daily Telegram) - It all comes down to this. One auto tech specialization class, two cars, best out of three drag races.

The winner moves on to the school-wide tournament; the loser goes back to the band saw.

Temple high school sophomore David Fordern holds up his team's car and gives it one last check before it blasts down the track for the first time. The car is carved from a wooden block and looks like a foot-long dragster: big wheels on back, small wheels in front, slim body and the car's engine, a little canister of compressed carbon dioxide protruding out the back.

"Hey, Glaser," he calls to his teammate Nathan Glaser, a sophomore, who is making sure the fishing line that will guide their car straight and true is taut.

"Get over here and kiss this thing for good luck."

Glaser doesn't even look up.

"I'm not kissing nothing. Just shoot it."

The class has gathered behind Fordern and Glaser's opponent, senior Johnny Davis, who is manning the launching pad, which is built out of scrap metal, wood and old fishing hooks.

His team's car, designed primarily by sophomore Luis Rios, looks like a drastically whittled-down bowling ball.

Finally, after weeks of studying the basics of aerodynamics, then designing and building their cars, the students are ready to see their work in action.

Davis flips a switch and simultaneously uncorks the CO2 "engines" in each car. Pfft! Hissssssss... The dragsters fly down the 40-foot track in less than a second, leaving a cloud of dust from the CO2 at the starting line.

The Davis team's car glides over the concrete shop floor at (roughly) more than



Temple Daily Telegram

David Castillo (left), Markeel Hopkins and Senior Johnny Davis watch carbon dioxide-powered model cars race. 30 miles an hour. It easily beats Fordern and Glaser's to the pillow that serves as a finish line.

"Ooooooh!" the all-guy class erupts.

Davis is already halfway down the track to retrieve the winner.

"We smoked y'all!" he taunts. "We smoked that car!"

## Matsui Helps Yanks Top Sox

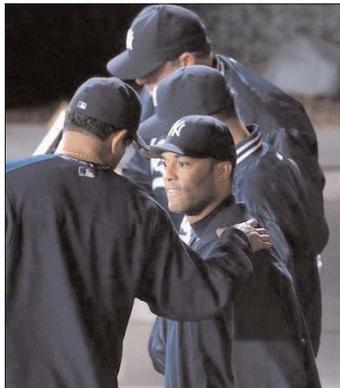
NEW YORK (AP) - Hideki Matsui is often overshadowed by his Yankees teammates.

With more nights like this, he won't be for long.

Matsui tied an AL championship series record by driving in five runs in New York's 10-7 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Tuesday, giving the Yankees the early edge in the best-of-seven series.

"It's nice to tie a record like that, but there's nothing like winning," Matsui said through a translator.

He hit an RBI double in the first inning and a three-run double off the right-field wall in the third against Red Sox starter Curt Schilling, and added an RBI single in the sixth to make it 8-0.



New York Yankees relief pitcher Mariano Rivera, center, is greeted by teammates in the bullpen after he returned from Panama.

Matsui, 3-for-5, had a chance to set the record in the eighth inning with the Yankees leading 8-7 and runners on first and second, but popped up behind second base.

"He gets into a situation where there's men in scoring position and he has knowledge of the pitcher, he just has a feel on what pitch he wants to hit," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

It was the sixth time a player has driven in five runs in an ALCS game, and the first since Adam Kennedy accomplished the feat for Anaheim in 2002. Paul Blair, Don Baylor, John Valentin and Bret Boone also drove in five runs.

Matsui, who hit .412 in the first round against the Twins, is being relied on even more in these playoffs, batting cleanup with an ailing Jason Giambi not on the postseason roster.

"He's really locked in," Yankees first baseman John Olerud said.

## Lennox Leads Storm to WNBA Title

SEATTLE (AP) - Betty Lennox had two WNBA franchises fold while she was on the roster. After the Cleveland Rockers folded last year, she landed with the Seattle Storm in the dispersal draft.

Now she's the MVP of the WNBA Finals.

Lennox had another huge night, scoring 23 points to lead Seattle to its first title with a 74-60 victory over the Connecticut Sun on Tuesday night.

What happened after the game was hard for Lennox to believe.

"Not only the celebration, the award that I just got. I can't believe it," she said. "Me? After everything I've been through? I'm speechless right now." Lauren Jackson added 13 points and seven

rebounds and Seattle got a big contribution from Kamila Vodichkova, who scored 14 points after being held to a total of seven in the first two games of the finals.

At the buzzer, the Storm players raced to midcourt for a pileup while yellow and green confetti fell from the rafters.

The Storm claimed the city's first major professional sports championship in 25 years, going back to the SuperSonics winning the 1979 NBA title. It also gave Seattle coach Anne Donovan her first WNBA crown, having missed in 2001 with Charlotte.

Lennox, who scored 27 points in Seattle's Game 2 victory that evened the best-of-three series, kept her momentum going in the decisive third game. She couldn't



Seattle's Lauren Jackson (15) and her teammates celebrate their first WNBA championship Tuesday.

seem to miss in the second half.

"Betty was unbelievable," said Seattle's Sue Bird, who had eight points.

### In Brief

#### Gibson Donates 10M to Hospitals

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Actor Mel Gibson has

donated \$10 million that will be split between Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA and the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center to help care for children from foreign countries, officials said Tuesday. The donation will help children with serious medical conditions who are unable to be treated in their own countries. The children who will benefit from Gibson's donation will be recommended by Healing the Children.



#### Rice Could Leave Raiders

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) - Jerry Rice believes he could be traded by the Oakland Raiders before the Oct. 19 deadline. Rice, who turns 42 Wednesday, told Sacramento radio station KHTK on Tuesday that his days with Oakland may be numbered, and that he wants to play for a team that will better utilize his talents. Speculation surfaced last week about a possible swap with the Detroit Lions. "When rumors get started like that, something is going on," Rice said. "I don't know how much longer I'll be wearing the silver and black." Rice is in his 20th NFL season, fourth with the Raiders.