

## Tragedy Leads to Big Discovery

By 1st Lt. Chris Heathscott  
39th BCT Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - A firefight on the banks of the Tigris River Oct. 3 transformed a small patrol through Taji, Iraq, into a huge operation to seek out the individuals responsible for the deaths of two 39th Brigade Soldiers.

The men involved in the operation overcame emotion in order to successfully execute a plan, which ultimately gave birth to the discovery of a major weapons cache and apparent hub of terrorist activity.

"Essentially what they had set up was an [improvised explosive device] manufacturing facility," said Maj. Damon Cluck,

Operations Officer of the 39th's 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery Regiment.

The unearthing produced 23 120-millimeter mortar rounds, a South African 155-millimeter round, and multiple detonation devices. Although representing only a small portion of the find, these are the ingredients to construct IEDs, some of which were already wired and ready for placement.

"That in itself made the cache significant in addition to the rockets and direct fire stuff that was found," said Cluck, who calls Russellville, Ark. home.

The plan for the operation, which resulted in the

**Continued on Page 2**

## Cultural Sensitivity Makes a Difference

By Staff Sgt. Susan German  
122nd MPAD

CAMP AL-TAHREER, Iraq - In an environment where split-second decisions are a necessity, it is important to understand when something is right, so that you can recognize when something is not right. Being able to understand key phrases or using appropriate gestures may make a difference.

Being aware of cultural differences can help Soldiers take the appropriate action and demonstrate sensitivity to religious practices, especially during this holy month of Ramadan.

To assist in this endeavor, the 1st Cavalry Division's Civil Affairs Section (G5) conducted Iraqi cultural awareness sustainment training for the 458th Engineer Battalion Oct. 11-12, and will continue to train Soldiers throughout the division.

The training comes at a time when the division has reached the midway point in its deployment, when Soldiers are getting tired, some may be suffering from combat stress, having seen fellow Soldiers killed or wounded, Lt. Col. Rick Welch, the division's civil affairs officer, said.



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Spc. Francisco Guiral, of Providence, R.I., and Staff Sgt. Luis Ortiz, carry 4 Rocket Propelled Grenades apiece as they help move weapons from the cache site.

The G5 section has been providing training since August. What makes this training unique is that a team of Iraqis provides the Arab perspective. The group was comprised of former military officers, professionals and college students and has an interest in talking about their culture in order to help multi-national forces operate more effectively in their culture.

During opening remarks, Brig. Gen. Michael Jones, assistant division commander for maneuver, 1st Cavalry Division, reminded Soldiers of the significance of the training.

Jones told the Soldiers that it was important for them to understand the role of the Army and their interaction with the Iraqi people, the role of women in Iraqi society and the concept of revenge; and how misunderstandings involving any of those components could lead to problems.

"How the population feels is fundamental to the success of our mission and a lot of how they feel depends on our behavior," Jones said. "So we have to modify our behavior to accommodate the fact that we're operating in

**Continued on Page 2**

# Joint Operation Takes Down Insurgents

**Continued from Page 1** finding of a total of three caches, was unfortunately conceived in response to an ambush, which killed two American Soldiers just hours earlier. The incident occurred during a joint patrol with Iraqi National Guard (ING) Soldiers, along with Soldiers from the 39th's 206th Field Artillery Regiment Oct. 3.

The firefight took the lives of Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Potts, of

Tiverton, R.I., and Sgt. Russell L. Collier, of Harrison, Ark. This led to the decision to reorganize and go after those responsible by sealing off that area of Taji Village and searching 23 different homes and buildings inside.

"I didn't want them going in for revenge, but I wanted them to go in for justice," said Neary, who is a resident of Cumberland, R.I. "We kind of pounded that into them during that

36 hours between the firefight and the mission, so that they knew we were going in there looking to find the folks that were responsible, not just looking to find anybody that was there to hold them accountable."

As the Soldiers worked through their emotion from the initial incident, the words of Lt. Col. Klemmer further built upon the foundation of professionalism laid by the ING following

the firefight.

"During that time, the ING came up, several of the officers, several of the [noncommissioned officers] that have kind of proven themselves to be more professional than we ever thought possible, and said 'We're sorry about your loss,'" said Buffalo, a resident of Jacksonville, Ark. "'It's not acceptable. We're going to do anything we can. Let us know what we can do.'"

## Actions Speak Louder Than Words

**Continued from Page 1** an environment where people have a very different cultural perspective."

Jones also reminded Soldiers of the cross-cultural values involving dignity, honor and respect and how understanding these values will help increase force protection.

Soldiers learned that revenge is the underlying cause for many of the attacks launched against multinational forces. People seek revenge to restore their honor and dignity.

"There are things we do that might cause someone to take revenge," Jones said. "We don't want our behavior, as innocent as it may be, to

have a negative impact on the folks we're dealing with."

Following Jones' opening remarks, instructors provided information on the historical aspects of Islam, the treatment of women, food customs, and basic Arab words and phrases. One instructor noted that a simple thing like removing your goggles or sunglasses when speaking to someone allows them to see your eyes and aids in communication. Another instructor asked Soldiers to befriend the children, since they will be the future leaders of Iraq.

Many instructors also noted that Iraqis have suffered through three wars since the early '80s, which

has resulted in financial problems for many of them. The impact of these wars has led to many widows and orphans, lost income, prostitution, abandoned education, a decline in health services, sexual violence and violation of human rights.

"It's very important for all of us to be aware of the culture that we are now a part of and we are integrating with. We all received training at mobilization, to be able to come here, so we all knew [the basics], but when you hear it from the source, it kind of hits home a little differently," said Staff Sgt. Karen Helsley, of the 458th Engineer Battalion.



By Staff Sgt. Susan German 122nd MPAD

Brockway, Pa. native Sgt. Melissa Serafini, Headquarters Company, 458th Engineer Battalion, asks a question to an Iraqi team of instructors during Iraqi Cultural Awareness training at Camp Al Tahreer. The training was conducted by 1st Cav. Div.'s Civil Affairs Section.

### Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

How far is it?

kam tabAHod

**Tuesday**

High: 100

Low: 74



**Wednesday**

High: 100

Low: 72



**Thursday**

High: 98

Low: 70



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

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## News Notes

### Navy Allows Skirts for Women

WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. Navy is getting a 21st century makeover, with a new dress code that makes skirts optional for its more than 54,000 female sailors for the first time since women officially entered the service in 1908. Women can still choose to wear skirts, which come in colors that vary according to rank and sometimes the season. But until the new rules went into effect this month, they had to maintain skirts in their sea bags and could be ordered to wear them for special events such as change-of-command and retirement ceremonies.

### Neighbors Fuming over Sign Theft

DALLAS (Dallas Morning News) - It's a common sign of the times, but Michael Egan still doesn't like it. "It's just dirty politics," Egan said of the theft of his yard sign supporting U.S. Rep. Martin Frost. "It's irritating. They can steal my sign, but they can't steal my vote." Egan and several others in his Far North Dallas neighborhood had their political yard signs stolen overnight Friday, and they're upset about it. But the anger is not just limited to Democrats. Warren Caldwell of Richardson said he was ticked off when somebody stole his sign supporting Frost's Republican opponent in the 32nd Congressional District race, from his yard in late September.



San Antonio Express-News

Jesus Zamora, 14, a member of the Conjunto Heritage Taller, practices his accordion after performing at the International Accordion Festival on Sunday at La Villita in San Antonio.

## Early Voting Begins in Texas

BELTON, Texas (Temple Daily Telegram) - The Nov. 2 elections are likely to be - as Ed Sullivan used to say - "a really big show."

Big is the word Bell County Clerk Vada Sutton used -several times - to describe anticipated turnout.

Early voting begins today.

There are just a handful of contested races on local ballots, but interest in the presidential election should - as always - draw a high percentage of voters to the polls.

"It's a presidential year, we always have a big turnout, Ms. Sutton said. "A big one ... big, big."

Voter registration in Bell County topped out at an

unofficial record of 154,360, as of the Oct. 4 deadline.

Registration has been steady all year, according to figures from the county's voter registration office in Belton.

Bell County's strong surge, near the deadline, is consistent with reported trends nationwide. The

county's number of registered voters increased from about 140,500 in mid-March, to 142,000 in May and 150,000 in September.

The March to October increase represents a growth of almost 10 percent. In November 2000 - when Bell County had 142,709 registered voters - the election turnout was about 63,000 (44 percent).

Of that group, about 30,000 took advantage of the early-voting period, Ms. Sutton said.

The reason Bell County had more voters in November 2000 than in March 2004 is because the county must periodically purge its rolls, deleting the names of people who no longer live here.



## Pats Extend Streak to 20

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) - Tom Brady lost a fumble and his helmet - but not the streak.

Brady recovered from that fumble and a costly interception by throwing a long completion in the closing minutes, giving the Patriots their NFL-record 20th straight win, 30-20 over the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday.

"It's not like we say, 'All right, guys, let's go out and make the play' and (we) make the play," Brady said. "At the same time, our team has a lot of confidence that when we get in these type of games we're going to make the plays to win."

Facing a third-and-7 at his 40 with 2:45 left and the Patriots leading 23-20, Brady threw down the left side to speedy Bethel

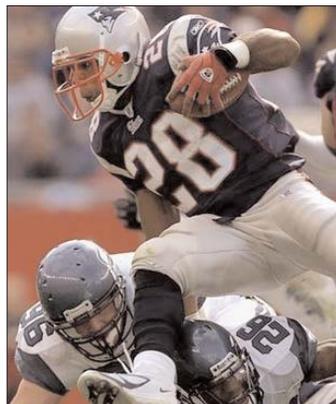
Johnson, who made a 48-yard reception as he hit the ground. The Seahawks challenged the catch, saying he didn't have possession, but lost.

"I THINK he made a great catch," Seattle coach Mike Holmgren said. "I really saw that play differently than the referee."

Three plays later, Corey Dillon put the game away with his second touchdown on a 9-yard run with 1:55 remaining.

"Without that catch we can't even begin to say what could have happened," Dillon said.

Without it, the Patriots (5-0) might not have tied the NFL record of 17 straight regular-season wins set in 1933-34 by Chicago. They'll be at home next week against the undefeated New York Jets.



AP

Patriots running back Corey Dillon (28) jumps over Seattle Seahawks defensive end Grant Wistrom (96) and free safety Ken Hamlin (26).

The Patriots, who haven't lost since Sept. 28, 2003, set the overall winning-streak record - which includes playoffs - with a 24-10 win that kept Miami winless at 0-5.

## BoSox Stay Alive with Ortiz Homer

BOSTON (AP) - David Ortiz's drive into the right-field bullpen set off a frenzy at Fenway and gave the Boston Red Sox a shot at pulling off the greatest comeback ever.

Down to their last three outs of the season, the Red Sox rallied - against Mariano Rivera, the New York Yankees and decades of disappointment.

Bill Mueller singled home the tying run off Rivera in the ninth inning and Ortiz homered against Paul Quantrill to end it in the 12th, giving Boston a do-or-die 6-4 victory over the Yankees early Monday that avoided a four-game sweep in the AL championship series.

"This is a team that never gives up," Ortiz said.

Red Sox fans who had



AP

Boston's David Ortiz celebrates after hitting the game-winning homer in the bottom of the 12th.

been praying, holding hands and hoping against hope a few innings earlier, burst into cheers when Ortiz connected. Long after Sunday turned into Monday, there was still plenty of energy inside old Fenway Park.

### In Brief

#### Astros Even it Out with Cards

HOUSTON (AP) - Julian Tavaréz must have forgotten about Carlos Beltrán



when he said the Cardinals didn't think the Houston Astros were so special. Beltrán struck again Sunday, homering in a record fifth straight postseason game and lifting the Astros over St. Louis 6-5 to even the NL championship series at 2. "There's no better feeling," he said.

#### Grappling with Godzilla's Legacy

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) - He's attacked other monsters and terrorized Japan for decades. Now Godzilla is confronting academics who want to wrestle with his legacy. The University of Kansas plans to pay homage to the giant lizard later this month, organizing a three-day scholarly conference for the 50th anniversary of his first film. It's not just about celebrating campy creature features. Planners want to provoke discussion of globalization, Japanese pop culture and Japanese-American relations after World War II. "I would like people to take Godzilla more seriously," said Bill Tsutsui, a history professor at the University of Kansas and author of the book "Godzilla on My Mind"