

## Joint Operation Nets Huge Cache

By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel  
122nd MPAD

TAJI, Iraq - Over 400 57-millimeter rockets, 7,275 rounds of 14.5-millimeter anti-aircraft ammunition and one U.S. Tube-launched Optically Tracked Wire Guided Missile (TOW) missile were just the tip of the iceberg during a recent weapons cache discovery north of Baghdad.

"We would begin digging in a new area and we just kept finding stuff," said the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment senior Iraqi National Guard (ING) advisor Capt. Mark Leslie, of the First Team's 39th Brigade Combat Team.

The discovery began with a tip from a reluctant informant who came forth with information on the location of the cache.

"The location of the first site put us in the far northern region of 2-7 Cav's AO (area of operation)," explained ING advisor Sgt. 1st Class Robert Haney of Company A, 2-7 Cav. "The initial cache discovery was exactly where the informant said it would be. But as we started spreading out, we kept finding more cache sites."

Fanning out from the original location, Soldiers would eventually discover 12 sites, each within one kilometer of the original. The total amount of items discovered was staggering; 12 SS-30 127-millimeter rockets with launchers, 20 rocket mortars, multiple,



By Staff Sgt. Thomas Baebourgg, 39th Brigade Combat Team

Troopers from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 39th Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division, worked with soldiers of Company D, 307th Iraqi National Guard during a recent weapons cache discovery north of Baghdad.

varying intensity mortar rounds and other various armaments.

Working off the ING's suspicion, the Troopers set to increasing their search radius, moving further and further away from the initial site. Soon enough, the search paid off.

"We found what appeared to be another significant cache location just a few [kilometers] away from the first sight," said Leslie. "At that point, a quick look at our maps and we realized we were moving outside the 1st Cavalry Division's AO into areas maintained by the 1st Infantry Division."

Securing the site for the evening, wheels were set in motion to secure permission to cross AO boundaries.

"As soon as we got back

to Camp Taji, we started contacting 2nd of the 108th [the command responsible for the area] to get permission to go into their AO," Leslie said.

Even more than granting permission, 2nd of the 108th, a New York National Guard Infantry Regiment attached to the 1st ID, sent elements to assist in the security and excavation of the site.

"This is how joint operations are supposed to work," said Haney. "You request permission, it gets approved and they send Soldiers down to help with the mission. That's Army teamwork!"

The second day of search operations revealed a much more significant find in terms of items seized as

well the five individuals who were detained for later questioning.

"We found so many mortar rounds, it was just unreal," said Denton. "And the amount of [Improvised Explosive Device] (IED) making material, and the list just goes on."

Three heavy dump trucks were needed to haul the entire cache contents back to Camp Taji where it will be disposed of.

"Everything came together like it's supposed to on this operation," said Leslie. "Everybody worked together in a joint [operation] that should make residents of Camp Taji and Camp Anaconda sleep a little easier knowing we have denied the enemy these tools of destruction."

# Donations, Renovations Benefit Locals

By Pfc. Brian Schroeder  
10th Mnt. Div. Public Affairs

MUKASIB, Iraq -- Despite the continuous booms heard in the distance, Iraqi children began another school year at the primary and secondary schools in this Iraqi town outside of Baghdad. Here, children dress in their blue and white uniforms and pile 30 deep into a classroom to expand their minds.

"All parents want their children to have a good future," said the Mukasib primary school headmaster. "They want them to be educated."

The coed primary school teaches children from ages six to 13 in 10 classrooms, which received a fresh coat of paint in all of the rooms before the school term started. The students study subjects, such as mathematics, Arabic, geography, English and sports.

Last year the school was given new supplies to aid in the education of the children.



By Pfc. Brian Schroeder, 10th Mnt. Div. Public Affairs

A classroom of Iraqi children takes a break from their studies to smile for a photograph at a primary school in the Iraqi town of Mukasib.

Capt. Scott Shaw, commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, said that over \$500,000 in school supplies were given to help with the new renovations of the schools.

"At the end of the war, these schools were pretty trashed," Shaw said. "A non-governmental organization came in and completely renovated the school.

Afterwards, we came in and refurbished desks and provided chalkboards for the classrooms."

Along with school supplies and refurbishments, Soldiers from 2-14 Infantry offer protection for the school by patrolling the streets of Mukasib. Though there have been terrorist threats against schools that teach boys and girls in the same classroom, the Mukasib

secondary school headmaster said he feels confident in the security provided by coalition forces.

"Last year threats were a problem for our school," the headmaster said. "This year there are no problems. Parents are not scared to send their kids to school. The patrols in the streets make our school safer."

Safety concerns do not stop the children from wanting to learn, the headmaster said. He said the students like to learn and they want to learn because it is good for their future.

Shaw said the future of these children, and ultimately the future of Iraq, all starts with the education of the children.

"If we start these guys out in school and show them that there are bigger things out there than the town of Mukasib, there are bigger things out there than the city of Baghdad and there are bigger things out there than the country of Iraq, then we are helping ourselves," he said.

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE



Answer: Improper Loading

## Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Where are you going?

ilaa ayn tazhab[ee]

**Wednesday**

High: 100  
Low: 70



**Thursday**

High: 100  
Low: 74



**Friday**

High: 98  
Low: 72



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

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## News Notes

### Major Damage from Arkansas Storm

SARDIS, Ark. (AP) - Driving rain and high wind caused heavy damage and injured at least 10 people Monday as storms moved through Arkansas, knocking out power to thousands of customers, authorities said. Near the town of Sardis, Fire Chief Rick Morris said about 45 structures were damaged or destroyed. Several tornadoes were reported. "When I looked out the window I saw the tornado swirling and I heard it hit," said sign painter Doug Hethcox. "All I could do was dive for the floor. The next thing I knew it was over. My trailer was knocked about 4 feet off its foundation."

### Man gets 60 Days for Cell Phone Rage

FARGO, N.D. (AP) - A man who stripped to the waist, put on safety goggles and tore up a Verizon Wireless store after complaining of bad phone service has been sentenced to 60 days in jail. Jason Perala, 22, pleaded guilty Monday to felony criminal mischief and misdemeanor assault in the rampage the company said cost it more than \$20,000 in broken equipment and lost sales. The 5-foot-11, 200-pound former college wrestler said he had intended to only scream at the store workers, but when he tried to throw his cell phone against a wall, it hit a worker in the shoulder. He continued to destroy merchandise for several minutes while workers locked themselves in an office.



Austin American-Statesman

John Wolken, left, and Bill Hornyak cast their ballots Monday at Randalls. Early and mobile voting runs through Oct. 29.

## Army Told to Plan for Shorter Tours

WASHINGTON (New York Times) - The acting secretary of the Army has told the service to begin drawing up plans to shorten the 12-month tour lengths of soldiers sent to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The memo dated Oct. 8 from Les Brownlee, the acting Army secretary, makes clear that those reductions would not be taken until the insurgency in Iraq diminishes and the capabilities of Iraqi security forces improves.

But the memo clearly emphasizes the urgency of having plans ready. It comes as the Army wrestles with two powerful, competing needs: finding enough soldiers to fulfill commitments in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and finding ways to make those tours less onerous for the soldiers and their families.

"As we continue to develop Iraqi security forces in both size and capabilities, the opportunity presents itself to address both the size

of our committed forces and the tour lengths of those soldiers assigned," Mr. Brownlee wrote in the memo to Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff.

"Please develop a plan that would enable us on fairly short notice to curtail tour lengths for our deployed and deploying soldiers," he wrote.

A copy of Mr. Brownlee's memo, which states that "it is important that these plans be available for implementation when the security conditions and the capabilities of the Iraqi security forces might enable us to do so," was provided by a senior Army official who closely tracks these issues.

Army personnel officers, as well as those representing the Army Reserve and National Guard, say their ability to recruit and retain soldiers will erode unless combat tours are shortened, perhaps to six or nine months. At the same time, Army war planners have significant concerns that the

Army, at its current size and configuration, cannot meet projected requirements for Iraq and Afghanistan unless active duty and reserve troops spend 12 months on the ground there.

The length of combat tours has become a point of stress for Army troops, as well as a significant point of friction between Army personnel and marines, who rotate out of Iraq or Afghanistan after seven-month tours.

The Army, since Vietnam, had deployed its forces in overseas combat situations in six-month tours. The major exception has been in South Korea, where soldiers serve for one year. The 12-month deployment was introduced last year after the end of major combat operations in Iraq, when a vigorous insurgency persuaded the military that it would need to maintain large numbers of troops in the country. The Army decided then that only 12-month tours would meet its needs.

## Ortiz Helps Sox Stay Alive Again

BOSTON (AP) - David Ortiz lifted the ball into center field on the 471st pitch of the night, and for the second time in 22½ hours, the Boston Red Sox poured out of their dugout to celebrate an improbable ending.

With another game that seemed it would never end, Boston's season just won't end.

Ortiz's RBI single off Esteban Loaiza with two outs in the 14th inning Monday night gave the Red Sox a 5-4 victory over the New York Yankees and pulled them to 3-2 in an AL championship series that is testing the endurance of players and fans alike.

The Red Sox, one inning away from elimination Sunday night, now are one game away from



Yankees' Miguel Cairo touches homeplate barely ahead of the tag by Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek, climbing out of a 3-0 deficit and forcing an anything-can-happen Game 7.

"The last two nights shows the depth, the character, the heart, the guts of our ballclub," winner Tim Wakefield said. "It took every ounce of whatever we had left to win

tonight's game and to win last night's game."

When it was over, the teams had played back-to-back marathons that totaled 26 innings and almost 11 hours - 5 hours, 2 minutes on Sunday and 5:49 Monday - the longest by time in postseason history.

## Rice Gets Wish, Moves to Seahawks

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) - Jerry Rice got his wish Monday night when the Oakland Raiders traded the NFL's most prolific receiver to the Seattle Seahawks.

The trade will be finalized after Rice undergoes a physical and the league gives its approval. An NFL source, speaking to The AP on the condition of anonymity, said the Raiders expected to receive a conditional seventh-round draft pick in return for Rice but the final details were still being worked out between the teams.

Calls to Seahawks officials weren't immediately returned Monday night.

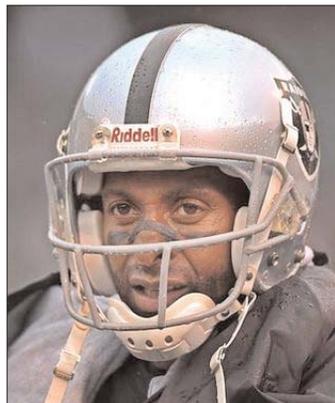
Rice told his teammates Monday he was headed to the Seahawks, and signed autographs for some before leaving.

"Yeah, we knew," full-back Zack Crockett, one of Rice's longtime friends, told The AP in a phone interview. "Right now, everything is so fresh. This is a real sad day. You lose a lot of close friends as well. We'll definitely miss him."

Rice asked for a trade last week as his role on the Raiders diminished. Earlier Monday, Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren said the team was looking into a possible deal.

"I would think it would give any team a boost, but really it's up to the Raiders," Holmgren said. "It's really their call."

Holmgren was Rice's offensive coordinator from 1989-1991 with the San Francisco 49ers, and Holmgren was the Niners' quarterbacks coach starting



Oakland Raiders wide receiver Jerry Rice watches the game from the sidelines during the Raiders 31-3 loss to the Denver Broncos last week.

in Rice's second season with the team in 1986.

The 42-year-old Rice wanted to play for a team that will give him a greater role.

### In Brief

#### Mendes to Produce Shrek Musical

NEW YORK (AP) - "Shrek," the tale of a lovable green ogre, was one of the biggest movies of the last several years. And its sequel was equally successful. So what is left to conquer? Broadway, says Sam Mendes, director of the Academy Award-winning "American Beauty" and creative producer of the upcoming stage version of "Shrek."



#### Astros Take Lead in NCLS

HOUSTON (AP) - Only when Brandon Backe and Woody Williams were done did the hitters have any chance. That's when Jeff Kent stepped up and put the Houston Astros only one win away from the World Series. Pitching suddenly took over these playoffs Monday night, when Backe and Williams hooked up in one of the greatest October duels - only four hits in all, the fewest ever in a postseason game. Kent ended it, launching a three-run homer in the ninth inning to lift the Astros over St. Louis 3-0 for a 3-2 edge in the NL championship series. Game 6 will be back in St. Louis on Wednesday, with Matt Morris starting for St. Louis. Roger Clemens may pitch on three days' rest for the Astros.