



Photo courtesy 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div.

Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment delivered 33 sheep to residents of the Al Tamar neighborhood in eastern Baghdad Oct. 20. The neighborhood formerly was a hotbed of insurgent activity, from which rockets and mortars were routinely fired at multinational force base camps in the area. The delivery was a civil military operation aimed at assisting the needy people in the area during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, and to show gratitude for peaceful relations over the past 60 days.

## 5BCT Operation Seals Streets; Collects Weapons

By Cpl. Bill Putnam  
122nd MPAD

AL RASHID, Baghdad -- Soldiers from two of the 1st Cavalry Division's Brigade Combat Teams shut down a restive neighborhood in Baghdad's Al Rashid District recently.

Long planned and delayed a few times, Operation Diamond Cutter's mission was simple: to shut down the Abu Dasher neighborhood of southern Baghdad to find insurgents responsible for planting Improvised Explosive Devices, numerous murders of local nationals working for the 1st Cavalry and shelling nearby Camp Falcon, 5th BCT officials said.

The mission by all accounts was successful. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery and the ING's 304th Battalion shut



By Cpl. Bill Putnam, 122nd MPAD

Staff Sgt. Riley Flaherty, a squad leader in Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, leads a detainee out to a waiting truck during Operation Diamond Cutter. The detainee was one of two taken by Flaherty's platoon and seven overall during 5th BCT's largest search operation to date.

down all roads leading in and out of the area. The 10th Mountain Division's 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, attached to the 5th BCT for the operation, searched

the eastern half of the neighborhood, while the 5th BCT's 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, searched the western half.

The two battalions found almost 50 rifles and AK-47s, three hand-grenades, 1 Rocket Propelled Grenade launcher, and detained seven suspected insurgents.

Around him, search teams were searching homes for weapons and material tying the residents to the Mahdi Militia, the now-disbanded militia of the firebrand cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

The two battalions searched almost 3,000 homes and businesses in the area that day. It was the longest and largest search conducted by the 5th BCT to date, said Spc. Leonard Cottrell.

"Usually, when we do searches, they're a lot shorter

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# 1-8 Cav. Searches 300 Homes in One Day

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and quicker," he explained.

"This is a big mission, my platoon is searching almost 300 homes alone," said Pfc. Barry Smith, a tanker in Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment.

"There they are," said Cottrell said as his convoy passed Soldiers from 1-21 FA and the ING's 304th Bn manning a checkpoint at 5 a.m. "Those guys have it rough, man, they've been out here since 2 a.m."

Various handbills explaining the day's search were passed out to people. One of the handbills was given to people for their employers explaining why they missed worked.

A first also happened during the operation. All privately-owned weapons, everything from pistols to AK-47s, were taken. Some of the locals protested and said they needed the weapons were for protection.

"Protection from what?" asked Staff Sgt. Riley Flaherty.

"The terrorists keep shooting at us," one man replied. Flaherty took the assault rifle, the first of 23 the task force confiscated that day, and put it in his humvee.

"They keep killing each other so we're taking their weapons away from them," Flaherty said to a reporter accompanying his platoon.

A spate of murders in the



By Cpl. Bill Putnam, 122nd MPAD

Locals looks up at the two men Staff Sgt. Riley Flaherty and his platoon leader, 1st Lt. Kevin Harper, detained during Operation Diamond Cutter. Five other suspected insurgents were detained during the 5th BCT's largest operation to date.

two weeks before Diamond Cutter had caused the decision to take away all weapons in the area, Flaherty said.

By 8:45 a.m., the two battalions started finding weapons and detaining suspects. Bandit Company, 1-8 Cav found three hand grenades in one home, and Archangel, 1-8 Cav. found three artillery shells near a traffic circle on a major road leading into the neighborhood. Four insurgents had also been detained.

By that time, as well, people, mostly men, boys and small girls, started to sit outside and watch the on-going search.

As time went on, people started opening their doors and bringing weapons out on their own.

"Looks like they were expecting us," Cottrell said. The house was pretty much empty, as most are here, and the search team left quickly.

"Thanks," Cottrell said to the owners.

"Af-wan," they replied in Arabic for "You're welcome."

Twelve hours after they started, the Soldiers wrapped up Operation Diamond Cutter. They did find one thing good about the day: clouds hid the sun and kept temperatures cool.

"At least it's not July," both Smith and Cottrell said. The battalion conducted a big search mission in mid-July. Temperatures that day reached 140 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature the day of

## Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Does anyone here speak English?

hunaaka aHad yitkallam injileeze?

### Thursday

High: 96

Low: 64



### Friday

High: 94

Low: 64



### Saturday

High: 92

Low: 64



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

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## News Notes

### Just Moving in for the Season

MUNCIE, Ind. (AP) -- Turkey vultures have taken over Gwendolyn Griem's backyard and made a mess of it. Around 50 of the soaring, carrion-consuming birds have flocked to Griem's yard in a gated subdivision in Muncie. They have ruined her patio furniture, stressed the shrubbery and even damaged the roof of her home, Griem told the Muncie Star Press for a story Monday. The birds have a 6-foot wingspan and can grow to be 32 inches tall, said Roger Hedge, an ecologist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Most of the birds should head south for the winter, he said. "To have turkey vultures flock like that in town, that's beyond me," Hedge said.

### 711 Dollars for 7 lb. 11 oz. Baby

ESSEXVILLE, Mich. (AP) - For 7-Eleven employee Erin Kappen, a surprise was in store when she had a baby. Because Parker John VanWormer weighed 7 pounds and 11 ounces when he was born Oct. 4, Kappen received a check for \$711 from Garb-Ko Inc., which operates the 7-Eleven store where she has worked part-time for 18 months. Kappen said she hoped to use some of the gift money to open a bank account for Parker and pay some bills with the rest. "I had no idea they were going to give me a check," said Kappen, whose son now weighs 8 pounds, 5 ounces. "I never knew that they had a program like that."

## Gloves, Sweat and Dreams

AUSTIN, Texas (*Austin American-Statesman*) -- A young boxer pounds a speed bag against its wooden base - thudump-thudump-thudump - marking a background rhythm in the East Third Street boxing gym.

Another watches himself in the mirror and punches the air, blowing out quick breaths that punctuate his movements. Others jump rope or tape their hands.

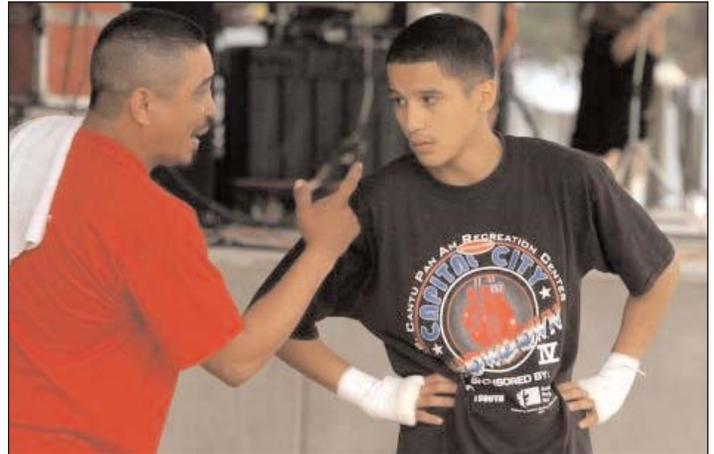
Together they carry on the tradition of a half-century of boxers who have walked through the doors of this city-run rec center near the corner of East Third and Chicon streets.

On the floor in a corner, Orlando Renteria stretches. The skinny 16-year-old with close-cropped black hair is deep in concentration: lips pursed, eyes squinted. The energy he once used fighting in school and drinking with friends now is channeled into daily workouts.

Nearby, Orlando's father, Tom Renteria, unloads on a big, black punching bag.

Renteria, 45, was once an Amateur Athletic Union champion while fighting for Pan Am in 1978 and is now a volunteer coach. A short man with a thin mustache, he punches with such force that the young boxers stop what they're doing to watch.

The Pan Am team was preparing for an outdoor event this month at Fiesta Gardens that



By Ricardo B. Brazziell, *Austin American-Statesman*

Tom Renteria gives his son Orlando some last-minute advice before a fight earlier this month at Fiesta Gardens. Though they live apart, boxing gives the father and son a common bond.

brought boxers from across Texas to Austin for a rare chance to fight competitively. They trained four

Tom Renteria starts at his landscaping job at 6:30 a.m. but rarely misses the chance to pick up his son and drive him to the team's daily workouts. And they're usually among the last to leave the gym.

"It's an honor. It's a privilege to learn from him," Orlando said. "We get along really well."

After hours and weeks of practice, it's time for the show. Teams from San Antonio, Killeen, New Braunfels, Laredo, Corpus Christi and other cities

pour into Austin for an all-day card of 27 fights.

Fans and parents gather under a pavilion at Fiesta Gardens.

Orlando is up in the final fight of the day. He is in the 110-pound weight class, also matched against a fighter from New Braunfels. They come out hammering each other in a flurry of punches.

By the third round Orlando's work in the gym is evident as he gains control of the fight, landing punches and avoiding his opponent's. He's declared the winner.

Outside of the ring, father and son can't stop smiling.



By Dana Centola, *Temple Daily Herald*

Lou Ann Anderson and her daughter Alex study at the Bell County Museum the votomatic voting machine that was used in Palm Beach County, Fla., in the 2000 General Election.

## Museum Acquires Voting Machine

BELTON, Texas (*Temple Daily Herald*) -- From a county where some people can't vote straight to a county where some people like to vote straight ticket; this little machine has traveled a long way.

The Bell County Museum unveiled its latest acquisition, one of the infamous punch-card, butterfly-ballot voting machines used in Palm Beach County, Florida, during the November 2000 election.

"We are delighted with this gift, because it repre-

sents a unique aspect of American history," Museum Director Stephanie

Turnham said. "The controversy surrounding the 2000 presidential election continues to spur comment."

Although the shortest distance between two points is always a straight line, there are those who contend somebody forgot to tell that to the election folks in Palm Beach.

Also, this particular machine traveled a somewhat roundabout route in getting to the museum.

## Red Sox Nation Represented in Iraq

By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin  
10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad -- While these Soldiers' battle scars may not be transparent, rest assured the war they wage has taken its toll emotionally. Despite apparently insurmountable obstacles and a history of pain and suffering, they continue to believe in their common cause.

Yes, it has been a tough 86 years for Red Sox fans. No one has experienced the history of numerous dramatic tragedies more than native New England soldiers deployed to Iraq who keep a flame of hope for their home team thousands of miles away.

Due to time differences, most of the playoff games are aired at 3 a.m. or later in Iraq. Considering the long workdays of a Soldier in a war zone, having the devotion to watch the Sox play night after night is nothing to wave a bat at. Soldiers gather before the break of day in the televised conference room to cheer their team on. Being with fellow fans is just as important as actually seeing the game, said Maj. Rick Smudin, Natick, Mass.

"Being a fan is about being with other fans," he said. "If I didn't have other fans to watch it with, I wouldn't get up for every day. We're like a support group."



Col. Mark A. Milley, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division commander, watches game two of the World Series from a conference room in Iraq.



Photos by Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin, 10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs

Capt. Ryan Leonard, Maj. Rick Smudin and Col. Mark A. Milley, all New England residents, watch game two of the World Series from a conference room in Iraq. Red Sox fans gather as early as 3 a.m. to watch the games and finish sometimes minutes before daily briefings.

One Soldier Smudin can count on is Capt. Ryan Leonard, a Durham, N.H. native, who watched every playoff game this year. He said he is ecstatic to watch the World Series with fellow soldiers of the Red Sox nation. They are all hoping to see the Sox accomplish a feat many have not lived to see.

"Eighty-six years. That's my father and grandfather who haven't lived to see the Red Sox win," he said.

Leonard even wears a Red Sox patch on his desert aviation uniform.

"It's my way of supporting the Sox," he said.

While it is not standard uniform in the military, Col. Mark A. Milley, a Winchester, Mass. native and 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander, makes an exception for a fellow Red Sox fan.

Of all the Red Sox faithful in the 10th Mountain Division, Milley is the most experienced in Red Sox triumph and tragedy. A "charter member of the Red Sox nation," Milley had Soldiers wake him up for the final innings of the American League Championship Series against the Yankees. Some

of the games finished minutes before his daily briefing from his brigade staff. Much to their relief, the Red Sox did not lose to their hated rival.

"It makes me miserable if they lose," he said. "My staff has an easy day when the Red Sox win. They breathe a sigh of relief when they win."

Despite a history of disappointment, the Soldiers of the Red Sox nation say they have hope for this year's team.

While all Red Sox fans would rather be in Boston to for the World Series, they are elated to see their team where they belong and will cheer them on from a distance together.

"I'd rather be in Boston," Smudin said. "But if they win, the memories of watching the World Series will always connect me to my experiences in Iraq."

Watching the series also gives Soldiers a chance to feel somewhat at home in a war zone.

"It provides a little corner of home," Milley said. "It's a refuge from the current war. The only thing we're missing is the Fenway Franks and peanuts."

### In Brief



AP

The Boston Red Sox celebrate after beating the St. Louis Cardinals 4-1 in Game 3 of the World Series.

### One Win Away from History

ST. LOUIS (AP) -- Only a curse can stop the Boston Red Sox now. And they know all about such things. With their baseball stars and lucky stars aligned, the Red Sox beat the St. Louis Cardinals 4-1 Tuesday night and moved within one win of their first World Series championship since 1918. "We're not going to relax that much," Boston starter Pedro Martinez said. So after being only three outs away from getting swept last week, Boston is on the verge of sweeping the club that led the majors in wins this year and claiming the ultimate prize. Red Sox fans gathered around the Boston dugout and chanted "One more win! One more win!" after the final out. Meanwhile, this sign curiously was posted on a side scoreboard at Busch Stadium: "Thanks for a great 2004 season." The Red Sox made eight errors and still won the first two games. This time, they were flawless in the field - and maybe even better than that.