

Progress Comes in Truckloads for Iraqis

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

CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad -- While farmers in the United States are harvesting their crops before the chill of winter, Iraqi farmers are preparing to sew the seeds of a new growing season and their newfound democracy.

Fifty local workers unloaded six truckloads of wheat and barley seed to distribute to local farmers in the town of Radwaniya. Representatives from the local farmer's cooperative picked up the 132 tons of wheat and 20 tons of barley seed to distribute to over 3,000 local farmers.

A local lawyer present for the distribution said during Saddam Hussein's regime the seed distribution process was conducted in an unfair and dodgy way. He said that the majority of the seed would be taken to the black market and sold, while the small remaining amount, if any, would go to the farmers.

"This is the first time they have tried to do it the best way and fair way," the



Photos by Pfc. Brian Schroeder, 10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs

A man unloads a bag of wheat seed to a stack of seed bags that will be distributed to local farmers. Men and boys from the city of Radwaniya volunteered to help unload the 142 tons of wheat and barley seed that will be distributed to local farmers.

lawyer said. "They plan and control the distribution process. The members of the farmer's societies have to sign for how much they receive and how much they deliver. That way we can control the process. I can say I am grateful to (Task Force 2-14) for doing this for my people."

Capt. Joseph LaBarbera, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment civil military operations officer said Task Force 2-14 has spent over \$1 million on civic projects, such as water pumps, water purification projects, school refurbishments, repairs to damages that ensued during the war and providing wheat and barley seed for local farmers.

"The seed distribution is a really big boost to the agriculture economy," LaBarbera said. "This is seed they can grow, make into bread and

sell in the marketplace, which will help the local economy, too."

The local Iraqis who accept donations or jobs supported by Coalition forces put themselves and their families in jeopardy.

"Our people need to live in peace," he said. "But who pushes them? The terrorists. Our people are scared. They keep themselves in their houses. They try to be helpful with the Americans, but they can't, because they are scared for their lives. The terrorists are killing anybody; Iraqi police, Iraqi National Guard, interpreters. They know their houses and they can kill them anytime. They cannot defend themselves, so they depend on luck and Allah. They are extremely brave for what they are doing, trying to live their lives again."

This particular village has not had any improvised explosive devices or rockets fired at any Coalition forces since Task Force 2-14 has taken it over in their area of operations, LaBarbera said. He attributes this to the strong leadership and security the leaders of the community provide for its citizens.

"The key is to strengthen the credibility of the local leaders, so they can then take control of their communities and instill security and welfare," he said. "If we can help build a strong local government it will boost the credibility of the Iraqi government. If we can give those guys credibility and support them through projects, where they can build upon their existing status in the community, they will be on their way to building a stable government."



An Iraqi child lends a hand with the distribution of wheat and barley seed for his community.

Chef-Turned-Soldier at Home in Chow Hall

By Spc. Erik LeDrew
122nd MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad -- Between the crowds of people wolfing down chow and the din of conversation, every meal must seem like a banquet at the chow halls around Baghdad and they may as well be. But one Soldier knows the difference between hungry Soldiers satisfying their stomachs and a genuine banquet.

Before Spc. Ben Woolard became an Army cook, or "food service specialist," with the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment out of Ft. Riley, Kan., he was a chef-in-training running the banquet hall at the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in Louisville, Ky.

"I was a banquet chef there, which basically involved supervising the cooking for big parties," the 23-year-old said. "I also got to make big ice sculptures and display them on the buffets."

While working at the hotel, Woolard was also attending Sullivan University, ranked third in the nation for culinary arts studies, where he earned his associate's degree after attending class for 18 months.

"I just love to cook, you're so free to be creative with it," he said, commenting on his choice of study, "but I didn't really know where it was going to take me."



By Spc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

Spc. Ben Woolard, a food services specialist with the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, attached to the 10th Mountain Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, checks the temperature on a refrigerator at the De Fleur dining facility on Camp Liberty in Baghdad. Before enlisting as an Army cook, Woolard was a professionally trained chef.

Indeed, Woolard probably never guessed that after working two years as an executive chef at "The Lombardio Café," an Italian restaurant, that he would be enlisting in the Army to serve his country.

"I enlisted Jan. 21, 2003," the West Frankfort, Ill. native said. "I chose to be a food service specialist in the Army because I love the job and I knew it was something I could do."

After going through basic

training at Ft. Knox, Ky., Woolard attended his job's eight-and-a-half-week advanced individual training (AIT).

"The Army covers sanitation, the basics of cooking, working in small garrison and large garrison chow halls, and then field cooking, which involved working with MKTs (Mobile Kitchen Trailers)," Woolard said.

Going from the "free to be creative" job of a professional chef to that of an Army

"chow" cook was at first a shock for Woolard.

"It was a pretty big change for me," he said. "It was going from overseeing everything in a kitchen to being just another worker."

"And the atmosphere is, of course, totally different," he added. "There isn't much room for creativity in an Army chow hall because you go by set recipes."

After graduating AIT, Woolard was stationed at Ft. Riley with 1-41 Infantry until they were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II with the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mtn. Div. in June 2004.

"So far this deployment isn't that bad," he said. "It definitely could be worse. I mean, I've got three hot meals and a bed to sleep in. I can't complain."

Because the cooks are all contracted civilian employees at the De Fleur dining facility, Woolard can't put to hands-on use his culinary education.

"At the chow hall, I oversee the cooking and preparation of food; I ensure sanitation in the kitchen; and check temperatures on the food stocks," he said.

Despite the presence of civilian cooks, Woolard doesn't discount the off chance that his Army training may be put to use out here.

"I haven't had to use my field cooking skills ... yet," he said with a laugh.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

There's been an accident.
hunaak Haadis.

Friday

High: 96
Low: 64



Saturday

High: 94
Low: 64



Sunday

High: 92
Low: 64



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

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News Notes

Psychotic Man Lets it All Hang Out

WILLMAR, Minn. (AP) -- A man accused of assaulting his girlfriend and breaking into a home while naked has been found to be psychotic and a judge has ordered him committed. Police said the 23-year-old man had been at his girlfriend's apartment when he took off his clothes and ran outside. She followed in a pickup truck, but the man pulled her from the vehicle and began choking her and striking her head against the curb, telling her he was going to kill her. Then he then ran into a house, threatened a couple and threw a piece of wood before running out. It took several people to subdue him before police arrested him.

Man Stores Dead Woman in Freezer

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) -- What should he do about the dead woman in the freezer? the 59-year-old man inquired of Spokane police. Detectives who responded found the body of a 57-year-old woman inside a chest-style freezer, Capt. Bruce Roberts said. Police said the man was the woman's caregiver. He told them he arrived at the woman's home about a week ago and found her dead, and put her in the freezer. "His underlying motivation, at least what he told us, was he wanted to preserve her dignity," Roberts told The Spokesman-Review. The man was sent to a local hospital for a mental evaluation. There were no obvious signs of foul play but an autopsy was planned once the body thawed.

Volunteer Firefighter Killed on Mt. Rainier

SEATTLE, Wash. (*Seattle Times*) -- With only his right hand free, Matt Little frantically dug himself out of what might have been his snowy tomb.

It took the 23-year-old construction worker about half an hour to paw his way out of the fresh avalanche on the southeast face of Mount Rainier. But by the time he reached his best friend and roommate, 21-year-old Aaron Koester, it was too late.

"He really did try to save his friend," said Little's mother, Theresa Little of Monroe, who recounted her son's story yesterday.

"He uncovered [Koester's] face - and knew he was gone."

A search-and-rescue team in a helicopter recovered Koester's body from Mount Rainier about 24 hours after the avalanche killed Koester. Koester worked for Monroe Fire District No. 3, which serves the city of Monroe and nearby areas.

Little, who had managed to escape unscathed, hiked for more than four hours to find help.

Little and Koester were hiking across a crevasse on Ingraham Glacier, 11,000 feet up the 14,411-foot mountain when the avalanche hit. The Monroe pals were training to climb Mount McKinley in Alaska.



Photo courtesy of Monroe Fire District No. 3

Volunteer firefighter Aaron Koester was killed by an avalanche on Mount Rainier on Sunday.

The two men initially planned to summit Mount Rainier - a feat they'd done before, said Theresa Little.

But after the men began their trip Friday, the weather worsened and they decided to stay close to Camp Muir, said Patti Wold, a spokeswoman for Mount Rainier National Park.

The climbers spent Saturday night at Cadaver Gap, then hiked to Disappointment Cleaver and Ingraham Glacier on Sunday. Once on the glacier, the men decided to descend a snow ramp into a crevasse.

After traversing the crevasse, the men began crossing a second snow ramp to climb out. That's when the avalanche hit, Wold said.

Little spent yesterday helping rangers with the recovery of Koester's body and describing the tragedy to park rangers.

Little told park officials that after pulling himself out of the snow, he used a radio to hail a hunter near Naches, Yakima County. The hunter notified authorities about Little and Koester.

Meanwhile, Little hiked to the Camp Muir Ranger Station, which is unmanned this time of year. Still, he managed to get access to a radio and called park authorities from there, Wold said.

Koester was the fifth person to die on Mount Rainier this year.

Plastic Container Co. Coming to Texas

NACOGDOCHES, Texas (*Daily Sentinel*) -- Gov. Rick Perry was in Nacogdoches Tuesday to welcome a new plastic container manufacturing facility, which will bring an initial 50 jobs with the hopes of expanding to 105 jobs in the next five years.

Lee Container Co. is expanding its plastic blow-mold manufacturing business to East Texas, and the company is ready to make a \$5.6 million investment in Nacogdoches County.

As Mayor of

Nacogdoches, it is Bob Dunn's duty to help welcome new industry to Nacogdoches and to occasionally make proclamations on behalf of the city.

"I'm going to proclaim this happy day in Nacogdoches," Dunn said.

Perry delivered the good news on the heels of recent state unemployment figures, which indicate that Texas has gained 123,700 new jobs in the last 12 months.

Plans are to start moving equipment into the plant after the first of the year.



By Dana Centola, Temple Daily Herald

Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaks Tuesday during an announcement by the Nacogdoches Economic Development Corporation of plans by Georgia-based Lee Container to build a manufacturing plant in the area.



By Vincent Laforet, The New York Times

Pedro Martínez, Curt Schilling and David Ortiz celebrating on the field at Busch Stadium. Martínez and Schilling won their starts, allowing one run in 13 innings between them, while Ortiz hit .308 with 4 RBIs. Boston won their first World Series since 1918 with a 3-0 win over the St. Louis Cardinals for a 4-0 series sweep.

Red Sox Break the 'Curse'

ST. LOUIS (AP) -- Pedro Martínez paraded the trophy down the left-field line, hoisting it high over his head with both hands. Thousands of Boston fans roared. Seeing was believing, but they still couldn't believe their eyes.

The Red Sox - yes, the Boston Red Sox! - were World Series champions at long, long last. No more curse and no doubt about it.

Ridiculed and reviled through decades of defeat, the Red Sox didn't just beat the St. Louis Cardinals, owners of the best record in baseball; they swept them for their first crown since 1918.

Johnny Damon homered on the fourth pitch of the game, Derek Lowe made it stand up and the Red Sox won 3-0 Wednesday night, wrapping up a Series in which they never trailed.

"All of our fans have waited all their lives for this night, and it's finally here. These guys did it for you, New England," Red Sox owner John Henry said.

Chants of "Thank you, Red Sox!" bounced all around the ballpark when it was over, with Boston fans as revved-up as they were relieved.

Only 10 nights earlier,

the Red Sox were just three outs from getting swept by the New York Yankees in the AL championship series before becoming the first team in baseball postseason history to overcome a 3-0 deficit.

It was Boston's sixth championship, but the first after 86 years of frustration and futility, after two world wars, the Great Depression, men on the moon, and the rise and fall of the Soviet Union.

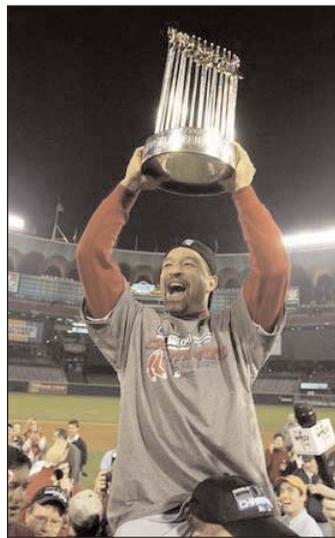
"We know people who are 90 years old who have just said: 'Just one championship before I die,'" Red Sox chairman Tom Werner said.

After all that, on an eerie night when the moon went dark in a total eclipse, MVP Manny Ramirez and the Red Sox made it look easy. They became the third straight wild-card team to win the Series, and the first club to win eight straight in a post-season.

Now the Red Sox get to raise the World Series banner next April 11 in the home opener at Fenway Park, with the vanquished Yankees in town forced to watch. No telling who will be there - 18 Boston players are potential free agents, including

Martinez and Lowe.

"Any time you don a Red Sox uniform, you have to talk about the history of this team and not having a World Series championship since 1918," Boston player, Tony Nixon said. "Sooner or later, that hex had to stop. Everybody thought it was a curse, but to use it was just a five-letter word."



AP

Boston Red Sox's Dave Roberts hoists the World Series trophy at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Wednesday.

In Brief

Horror Writer Lists 'Headaches'

NEW YORK (AP) -- Stephen King has compiled his list of pet peeves for 2004. King writes in his Entertainment Weekly column that although pop culture is full of pleasures, it also has its share of annoyances. "For every pretty, talented Elisha Cuthbert there is a Paris Hilton (and her little dog, too)." By exposing his own annoyances he hopes to encourage readers to speak of their own pet peeves, King writes. The list includes pop star Britney Spears, who rates a minor headache; real estate mogul and "The Apprentice" star Donald Trump, a moderate to severe headache; and ads before theatrical movies, a head-splitting migraine.

Double the Labor for Julia Roberts

LOS ANGELES (CBS) -- Julia Roberts was hospitalized over the weekend when she began experiencing early contractions according to People magazine senior editor Jess Cagle. The actress, who's expecting twins in January, was preparing for a baby shower in Los Angeles on Saturday when the contractions hit, Cagle says. "They hooked her up to a fetal monitor," he explains, "and the contractions stopped, but the doctors have said, 'You're on bed rest.' Roberts is expecting a boy and girl, he notes. Cagle said, "This has been a good pregnancy. She worked in the beginning of it. She finished her two movies. Then she laid low."