

Soldiers Plan to Eliminate City Trash Problem

By Spc. Andy Miller
122nd MPAD

AL THAWRA, Baghdad, Iraq- When they first arrived in Al Thawra, or Sadr City, three

months ago, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment (Task Force Lancer) of the 1st Cavalry Division, realized they had a mess on their hands.

There was a lot of trash, everywhere. Often mixed with sewage in the streets, or burning in vacant lots, the problem couldn't be ignored. Now, with the help of the local Iraqi

municipal services management system (Baladiyat), Soldiers from Task Force Lancer have devised a plan that is working to clean up the streets in this highly populated district of Baghdad.

The plan calls for contractors to place trash collection points in the residential areas of Al Thawra. Instead of dumping their trash in the street or on the median, residents can dump it at the collection point. From there, the Baladiyat has hired workers who will routinely collect the trash, and ensure that it gets transported to a landfill.

The system is the first government operated trash collection system in Al Thawra since before the Iran-Iraq war that spanned most of the early 1980s, according to Mohamed Lafta, a Civil Engineer who has lived in Sadr City since 1968.

"When the people are without control, without government, they put the trash anywhere. Maybe they put it in the street, in the wide areas or in

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By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Soldiers from the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion of Task Force Lancer, inspect an area of Al Thawra where the sewage has been seeping into the streets. The Soldiers hope that through a combined effort with local Iraqi officials, they can eliminate both the trash and the sewage problems that have plagued much of the Al Thawra district of Baghdad since the first Iran-Iraq War of early 1980s.

1-7 Cav. Presents Disabled Iraqis Some Wheels

By Pfc. Al Barrus
122nd MPAD

AL RASHID, Baghdad, Iraq- Fulfilling a request by the Al Jihad Neighborhood Council, civil affairs troops in the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 5th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, improved the lives of the disabled residents in the area.

On July 13 at the Al Rashid District Council build-

ing, 1-7 Cav. Soldiers and leadership presented 50 wheelchairs to the Al Jihad Neighborhood Council and disabled Iraqis who were able to make the trip.

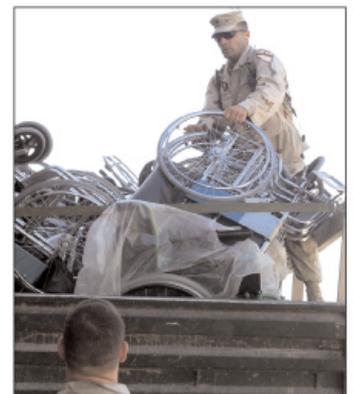
It is preferred that the ministries of the new sovereign Iraqi government handle these types of projects, but the circumstances called for help from 'Garry Owen,' said Capt. Aaron Hetherington, the civil

military operations officer for 1-7 Cav.

"We thought it would be best to go through the government post transfer of sover-

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Sgt. Andreas Deleon, civil military operations sergeant for 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, unloads wheelchairs at the District Council hall in Al Rashid.



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

TF Lancer Faces Dual Challenge With Sewage, Trash

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the houses," Lafta said. "So when the [new Iraqi] government takes control. They cannot make these mistakes. And they cannot put the trash and the weeds and the rubbish everywhere. They must put it in the suitable places."

During the first Iran-Iraq War, municipal services became neglected in Al Thawra, Lafta said. This neglect continued until the First Team arrived here in March.

When Staff Sgt. Chad Sandoe, an assistant team leader with the Demon Team of

the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion, arrived here with Task Force Lancer, he noticed the trash problem right away. By talking with residents in the district, Sandoe learned their biggest concerns were with the sewage and trash problems in their neighborhoods. These two problems are interconnected. So when money started coming in for sewage refurbishment projects in the area, it was natural to devise a solution to the trash problem.

"If you don't clean up the trash, its going right back in the sewer system," Sandoe said. "Unlike the states, where you have storm water and sewage drains, it's all the same here. It's a common drain. So if we don't clean up the trash, the several million we're going to spend on sewage, is going to be

wasted."

People driving through Sadr City today must go through or around littered streets often soaked with several inches of standing sewage. In about a year, the Task Force Lancer Soldiers hope situations like these won't figure into the daily life of Al Thawra's residents.

"I think there will be a huge benefit for the people of Sadr City," Sgt. Wayne Teegardin, a team sergeant with the 478th, said. "Once everything is in place and functioning, I think you'll see

their city streets are going to look better. Their neighborhoods are going to look better, they'll smell better, and they're going to have fewer health problems and things associated with having trash in the streets."

"If you don't clean up the trash, its going right back in the sewer system."

-SSG Chad Sandoe, Asst. Team Leader, Demon Team, 478 CA Bn.



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

Staff Sgt. Chad Sandoe and Sgt. Wayne Teegardin, from the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion of Task Force Lancer, inspect a newly placed trash collection point in the Al Thawra district of Baghdad. The introduction of the trash collection points marks the first government operated trash collection system in this heavily populated district of Baghdad for decades. In prior years, residents have dumped trash in the streets or paid private contractors to haul it away.

Wednesday

High: 115
Low: 82



Thursday

High: 114
Low: 81



Friday

High: 110
Low: 79



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

Iraqi Word of the Day

pistol

mu-sed-es

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▶ Brigade Gains Another Colonel



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Ronald Chastain, commanding general of the 39th Brigade Combat Team, pins Roger McClellan, 48, of Collierville, Tenn., with his new rank of colonel.



SAFETY TIP



PT SAFETY

When Running on the FOB:

- ▶ Do not run alone.
- ▶ Stay on the right side of the road.
- ▶ Stay on the pavement.
- ▶ Avoid stepping on or kicking debris laying in the road
- ▶ Wear your reflective safety belt or vest.
- ▶ Do not wear headphones.
- ▶ Do not run close to concertina wire.
- ▶ Stay hydrated.
- ▶ When running in formation ALL members of the formation must stay within the right lane.



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

Capt. Aaron Welch, commander of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, helps a disabled Iraqi man into one of 50 wheelchairs bought by the coalition for disabled Iraqis living in Al Jihad.

Civic Missions Keep Cav Busy

Continued from Page 1

eighty to see if the ministry of health would handle this," he said. "But they were unable to because their budget wouldn't let them provide wheelchairs to people at this time."

The chairs, costing a total of \$6,500, were a small price to pay for an improved quality of life for many people in Al Jihad, Hetherington said. They helped provide improved mobility to 20 children and 30 adults with diseases, birth defects and disabling injuries.

"I'm not sure if any of them were wounded in our last war by coalition [forces], but it's possible," Hetherington said. "We don't discriminate.

All we asked was who needs a wheelchair and we got them one regardless of the circumstances for which they were disabled."

This mission was the first time a 1-7 Cav. civil affairs effort had given away wheelchairs, but it isn't the last, he said. Chairs have already been ordered for two other neighborhoods in the 1-7 area of operations.

"The wheelchair project is just one small piece of a very large scope of our operations," Hetherington said. "We are doing operations ... from trash pickup, new sewers, water lines, electricity all the way to building soccer fields and renovating buildings."

Today in History

July 21

► From historychannel.com

1861 The First Battle of Bull Run - In the first major land battle of the Civil War, a large Union force under General Irvin McDowell is routed by a Confederate army under General Pierre G.T. Beauregard.

1865 In what may be the first true western showdown, Wild Bill Hickok shoots Dave Tutt dead in the market square of Springfield, Mo.

1955 The last episode of the popular radio program The Roy Rogers Show airs. The show had been one of radio's most popular programs since its debut in 1944.

1955 President Dwight D. Eisenhower presents his "Open Skies" plan at the 1955 Geneva summit meeting with representatives of France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union. The plan, though never accepted, laid the foundation for President Ronald Reagan's later policy of "trust, but verify" in relation to arms agreements with the Soviet Union.

1970 After 11 years of construction, the Aswan High Dam across the Nile River in Egypt is completed on July 21, 1970. More than two miles long at its crest, the massive \$1 billion dam ended the cycle of flood and drought in the Nile River region, and exploited a tremendous source of renewable energy, but had a controversial environmental impact.

Killeen's First Starbucks Opens Friday

By *Killeen Daily Herald*

KILLEEN, Texas—Immersing herself in the caffeinated world of mocha frappuccinos, grande vanilla lattes and wet cappuccinos was a welcome challenge for one area coffee enthusiast.

Ashley Ross, along with about 25 of her peers, spent the past several weeks learning the specialized Starbucks lingo and embracing the coffee house culture as she trained for her job at the new Killeen Starbucks. The store, located at

2600 Trimmier Road Suite A, is scheduled to open at 5:30 a.m. Friday.

"The whole thing is just practice, practice, practice," said Regina Hebert, manager of the Killeen store, describing the weeks-long training that each of the employees was required to complete.

Employees, called partners, are versed not only with coffee blending know-how, they are virtual experts in everything from the history of the company to the anatomy of

coffee, Hebert said.

The training involved a combination of study from a more than 200-page textbook and hands-on instruction at Starbucks' two Temple locations.

The staff also learns to cultivate the welcoming atmosphere that is a trademark of every Starbucks location, Hebert said. The store should serve as a relaxing place to go outside of home and work, she said.

Hebert tells her staff to consider the customers as guests at a party in their home.

"I want people to be able to come here and feel relaxed and comfortable," Hebert said.

Ross said she was initially overwhelmed by the store's diverse menu of nearly 25 different drinks, but the combination textbook study and hands-on training has paid off for the Killeen women.

Standing behind the counter of the new Killeen store, Ross put her new-found knowledge to the test Monday as she whipped up a caramel macchiato, one of the coffee house's many specialty coffee drinks.

Like Ross, the entire Starbucks crew is in high gear readying the store and going through last-minute hands-on training in preparation for the grand opening Friday, said Hebert.

"Now we're actually putting the tools and resources we've learned to the test," Hebert said.

And the training will not end when the store opens its doors Friday.

The staff will conduct regular coffee tastings to keep the employees familiar with the company's products.



Killeen Daily Herald

Ashley Ross, wife of Sgt. Maj. James Ross, of the 45 ADA, 1st Cavalry Division, started working at Starbucks to keep herself busy while her husband is deployed to Iraq.

Thrill-Seeking Uncle 'Adopts' MP Unit

First Team MPs on Fast Track in Jersey

**By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
1st Cavalry Division Public
Affairs**

BAGHDAD, Iraq – "It's a lot of work for six seconds of fun."

That's how Sgt. Damon Bosonac views his uncle's passion for drag racing. But his uncle has also built a passion for Damon's unit, the 545th Military Police Company of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Bosonac's uncle, Bob Rossi of Woodbridge, N.J., decorated his car with the Cavalry Division's logo, and the MP's unit designation for this year's racing season. He did it to honor his nephew, and the Soldiers of the 545th deploying into harm's way.

"People understood it was done for the Soldiers," Rossi said in an interview with *The Home News Tribune* when the paint job was complete.

Rossi has been an owner/driver of drag racers since 1964. Bosonac said his uncle hasn't had the car on the track as much as he'd like this season because he's recovering from triple-bypass heart surgery.

"He's waiting for the doc's OK," Bosonac said. "But he expects to be back behind the wheel in early August."

Bosonac said he's always been around drag racing, and catches a few races every year. Still, he's never been behind the wheel of the A/Altered Oldsmobile racecar, which his uncle can complete a quarter-mile run in just over six seconds.

"He said he'd let me drive it," the MP squad leader said. "But 200 miles-an-hour ... it's too much for me."

Rossi has enjoyed some success on the quarter-mile tracks across the land. A construction worker by day, racing is his obsession, his nephew said. Rossi has set seven national speed records in his newly decorated car, and in 2003 his racing team was the first in his class of racecar to reach 210 mph.

Rossi told his nephew about his desire to feature the 1st Cavalry Division's patch on his car before the racing season began, as Bosonac prepared to leave Fort Hood. The MP sergeant figured his uncle would add a decal patch and that would be

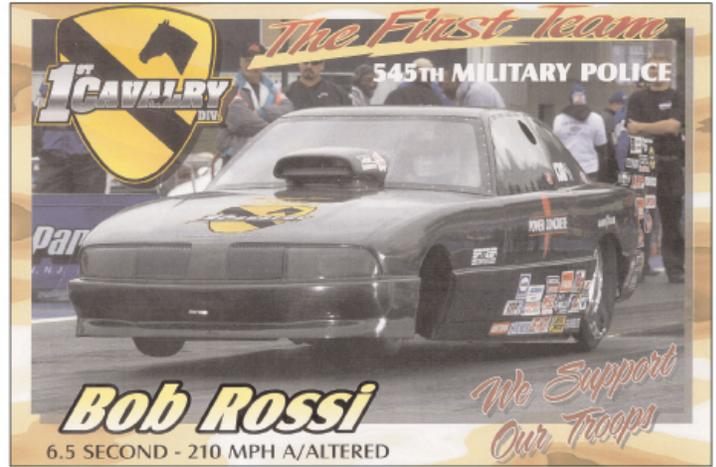


Photo courtesy of Rossi Racing Team

Bob Rossi, a Woodbridge, N.J., National Hot Rod Association driver/owner, decorated the hood of his racecar to honor his nephew's unit, the 545th Military Police Company of the 1st Cavalry Division. Rossi's nephew, Sgt. Damon Bosonac, is a squad leader with the unit. Besides decorating his car in Cavalry colors, Rossi has sent 200 T-shirts to the unit.

that. Instead, his uncle covered the hood of his car to celebrate his nephew's unit.

"He wanted to do this as a surprise," Bosonac said. There was still another surprise in store for the MP squad leader and his unit. Rossi also had T-shirts made up to send to the

MPs serving in Baghdad. Rossi said one of his racing team's sponsors paid for the shirts, 200 of them.

"We are keeping our fingers crossed they will get there," Rossi told *The Home News Tribune*. "It's just a little something to make them feel good."

TV GUIDE	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
6 p.m.	Popular Mechanics for Kids/ Liberty's Kids	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	Pardon the Interruption/ Totally NASCAR	Jumanji 5 p.m.
7 p.m.	Jeopardy!/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 7:30 p.m.	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
8 p.m.	ESPNews/ Headline News	Red Planet	ESPNews/ Baseball Tonight 8:20 p.m.	The Simpsons/ Happy Days
9 p.m.	8 Simple Rules.../ The Bernie Mac Show		Baseball Tonight	The Amazing Race
10 p.m.	Fear Factor	Singin' In The Rain	MLB Pre-Game/ MLB - Cincinnati Reds @ Chicago Cubs 10:15 p.m.	Andromeda



scores as of July 20
8 p.m. PDT

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Minnesota 5 (10 innings)
Detroit 4

Boston 9
Seattle 7

Cleveland 14
Anaheim 5

New York 4
Tampa Bay 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cincinnati 6
Milwaukee 2

Philadelphia 4 (10 innings)
Atlanta 3

St. Louis 11
Chicago 8