

New Clinic Opens in Al Furat

By Cpl. Bill Putnam
122nd MPAD

AL RASHID, Baghdad -- A former Republican Guard headquarters is now Al Rashid's newest clinic.

"This clinic is a gift from the American people to Iraqis," said Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, 1st Cavalry Division commander, during his remarks just before the ribbon signifying the clinic's official opening.

Approximately 200 sheiks, doctors, local politicians and Soldiers from the First Team were on hand to see the Deputy Minister of Health cut the ribbon. A walking tour of the facility was also given.

The project took almost seven months to complete and cost \$2.7 million, said Capt. Russell Reiter, a civil affairs team chief with Company A, 489th CA Battalion.

"The project was just getting started when I got here in February," he said. "It basically consumed my entire rotation."

The Iraqi Minister of Health toured the large, two-floored and multi-winged facility recently and said it was by far the best clinic in Iraq, Reiter said.

The facilities are extensive, said Reiter. It will have an obstetrics and gynecology department for women, laboratories, a couple of operating rooms, an outpatient clinic, two pharmacies, a couple of X-ray rooms and dentists

It will also have a 24-



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The Iraqi Deputy Minister of Health cuts the ribbon signifying the Al Furat Clinic's Sept. 4 opening in the Al Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

bed inpatient capability, said Capt. Joe Phillips, the brigade surgeon for the 5th Brigade Combat Team. An Intensive Care Unit is also planned, Phillips said.

"It will probably have 10 beds, he said.

A non-governmental organization led by Lady Emma Nickelson, an English baroness, will also have an office in the hospital for patient statistics and health classes, Reiter said.

"This is a very good thing," Reiter said.

All of the equipment came from Western Europe or the U.S., explained Reiter.

"Everything they got is state-of-the-art stuff," he said.

Some of it is so advanced some of the Iraqi doctors asked Reiter and his civil affairs team if they were teaching them how to operate it.

The biggest hurdle to opening this clinic was coordination, said Jeffry Brinkley, the medicine attaché to the U.S. Embassy to Iraq.

Getting everyone involved -- the 1st Cav. Div., the Ministry of Health and the Baroness -- on the same sheet of music took a lot of coordination,

Brinkley said.

"It's very difficult to get anything done here, so this is a great success," Brinkley said. "It's a great day."

The project finally came together during the recent Iraqi national conference, he said. All the parties involved met and hammered out the big details of who would do what, Brinkley said.

Chiarelli said the clinic's opening was a sign of Iraq's continued progress toward stability. "Their dedication to the project is an indicator toward a new Iraq," Chiarelli said.

Bravo 1-9 Blackhawks Head Home

By Spc. Jan Critchfield
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment "Blackhawks" are on their way back to Texas after fulfilling a year of duty that included fighting near Fallujah as well as time spent in Baghdad's International Zone.

Normally a Bradley Fighting Vehicle company, the Blackhawks traded their tracks for the wheels of humvees and left several months in advance of the rest of the 1st Cavalry Division, the bulk of which was deployed in February of 2004.

"We deployed here as a completely separate company," said 1st Lt. Randall Crowder, the Blackhawk company's executive officer. "We were originally a Bradley company before we changed over to a mechanized, wheeled unit."

Arriving in Iraq in September 2003, the Blackhawks spent several months serving with the 82nd Airborne under the 1st Infantry Division, and later with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Facing almost daily engagements



By Sgt. Christina Rockhill, 1st Cav. Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, 1st Cavalry Division commander, speaks with troops from the 1-9 Blackhawks about their deployment to Baghdad.

with anti-Iraqi forces, the Blackhawks conducted raids and patrols in several villages near Fallujah and captured several large caches of weapons.

"We were the backbone of the maneuver element for [our battalion], so the [operations] tempo was high," Crowder said.

On May 27 the Blackhawks rejoined the First Team in Baghdad.

"I think some of the Soldiers had thought the [1st Cav. Div.] just forgot

about us," Blackhawk Commander Capt. Adontis Atkins said. "But, the reception we received coming to [Baghdad] was great."

As a combat hardened unit, the easy life of the International Zone contrasted with what the Blackhawks were used to.

"In the International Zone ... we've had an opportunity to see and hear about the great things [the Multi-National Forces are] doing in the big picture,"

Atkins said. "Instead of thinking every Iraqi was trying to kill them, the [Soldiers] get to see that there are some Iraqis that are grateful that we're here."

Atkins said the move to Baghdad will help the Soldiers transition to life back home with their families.

"Coming into the International Zone helped us transition from combat operations," Atkins said. "It'll help the troops transition back to life in the states. I'm truly thankful that the First Team was able to pull us back [to the International Zone], put their arms around us, and send us home."

Contrary to what Atkins expected, the Blackhawks weren't as excited as one might think about getting out of a combat zone, at least on the outside.

"It's a little more somber than I expected, now that we're going home. I thought they'd be jumping around, and excited," he said. "We're ready to go home, though. You could put a mountain in front of us, and we'll move it, if it means we go home."

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

**That's all thanks.
hazaa kullah shukran**

Tuesday
High: 98
Low: 72



Wednesday
High: 100
Low: 72



Thursday
High: 104
Low: 74



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

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News Notes

Broadband Reaches Texas Rural Areas

BLANCO, Texas (AP) -- Broadband service is becoming more available in rural parts of Texas thanks to state grants and other programs aimed at helping communities get linked to the Internet. President Bush has vowed to bring high-speed Internet to every American household by the year 2007. The networks, known as wireless fidelity or Wi-Fi, allow users to access fast Internet connections without the need of a phone line. The technology is popular in coffee shops and airports, where patrons can quickly check their e-mail or surf the Web from their laptops.

Readjusting Lives Not Easy for Soldiers

CHICAGO (AP) -- When the members of a National Guard unit finally returned from Iraq in July, they were met with tears, hugs and signs reading "Welcome home." But for some, the return hasn't been easy after living so long with the camaraderie of their unit, the structure of military life and the dangers of war. For Louis Zapata and many others, the return to civilian life has been harder than they expected. Romances have faltered, career plans have stalled and friendships have become strained during months at war. "When you put on a uniform that says U.S. Army, you've got to know you could be called up for anything," he said. "Nobody expected September 11," Zapata said.

Deer Familiar Sight in Heights

HARKER HEIGHTS, Texas (Killeen Daily Herald) - They can be spotted emerging from the woods, or lounging under a shade tree and sometimes, a 12-point buck just might make itself at home on a front porch.

On Chinaberry Circle in Harker Heights, deer are likely to be found just about everywhere. For the most part, residents seem to enjoy the deer as their own little slice of nature. But as the numbers of the wild animal grow, so do concerns surrounding them.

"Overall, I think it's good to have deer in the community," said Billy McGowan, a Chinaberry Circle resident.

He said his grandchildren like to watch the deer when they come to visit from Houston. They're beautiful,



Killeen Daily Herald

Deer gambol through the wild grass in an empty field near Chinaberry Circle, a neighborhood in Harker Heights where deer have become a familiar sight.

McGowan said, but they do a lot of destruction too. McGowan had to cut down a bush at the front of his home that the deer damaged. A tree in the front may also have to go if the deer continue to damage it by using it as their favorite rubbing post. He

also experienced the downside of deer when one ran headlong into the side of his truck.

McGowan has seen the deer population grow steadily since he moved in 1982.

"You can get to the point where it's too many," he said.

New Life for Battered Bradleys

UNIONTOWN, Pa. (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette) - The employee parking lot at the United Defense plant in Uniontown has been taken over by banged-up Bradley fighting vehicles recently returned from Iraq.

Several show the unmistakable signs of a hit from rocket-propelled grenades, but most seem in remarkably good condition, considering the ordeal they've been

through.

At Uniontown, the Bradleys are stripped down to their hulls, which are then sand-blasted. If repairs to the hull are required, they are made by welders.

Broken parts, or parts that would be obsolete in the upgraded versions of the Bradley that United Defense is building go into the scrap metal bin. Salvaged parts are refurbished.

The engine, drive train, and the optics from weapon systems are sent to the Red River Army depot in Texarkana, Texas, for remanufacturing there. Other parts are boxed and sent to York, where the upgraded Bradleys are reassembled.

Most of the Bradleys the Uniontown plant received from Iraq were the A2 model. When the remanufactured vehicles come off the assembly line in York, they will be the A3 model. The major difference is that the A3 has separate viewers for both the vehicle commander and the gunner.

The A3 also has a better gun sight, upgraded visual displays for the commander, gunner and driver, embedded diagnostics for maintenance trouble-shooting, and an improved armor package.



US Army photo

Bradley Fighting Vehicles that saw service in Iraq will be refurbished at the United Defense Plant near Pittsburgh.

Smashing Debut for Gibbs, Portis

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) -- The emotions were churning on the eve of Joe Gibbs' first opener in 12 years, for both the coach and his family.

"Good gosh! I don't know when I've ever wanted one like this," Gibbs recalled his wife as saying.

Pat Gibbs must have been a nervous wreck in the fourth quarter, when the score was still tied. An interception by Antonio Pierce turned the momentum, however, and the Washington Redskins beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 16-10 Sunday to welcome the Hall of Fame coach back to the NFL.

"It was huge for me, I can tell you that," said Gibbs, who got his 125th regular season victory and 141st overall. "And I think

it was for our players, too. I told my players that I hope now the attention can go on them."

Gibbs pointed to the crowd and gave a thumbs-up sign before heading into the tunnel after the final whistle in game in which his offense reached the end zone just once: on a 64-yard run by Clinton Portis on his first carry with the Redskins. Otherwise, the game was decided by an aggressive game plan from assistant coach Gregg Williams, to whom Gibbs has given complete control of the defense.

The Redskins held the Bucs without an offensive touchdown for the game and without a first down until midway through the second quarter. Two of Washington's three field



AP

Redskins running back Clinton Portis (26) celebrates with teammates after scoring a touchdown Sunday.

goals were set up by turnovers.

"I can't take any credit for that," Gibbs said. "All I do is walk down there and scream, 'Stop 'em.' "

Robert De Niro Defends His Mafia Roles

VENICE, Italy. (AP) -- Robert De Niro dismissed accusations that his Mafia roles have smeared the image of Italian-Americans, arguing that he plays realistic characters including many who could not be construed as stereotypes.

De Niro's defense Friday came after the Order Sons of Italy in America, a fraternal organization of Americans of Italian heritage, wrote a letter to the Italian government, urging it to cancel its plan to award the actor honorary citizenship. The government rejected that request, and is expected to confer the honor next month.

"The characters that I played are real - they are real. So they have as much right to be portrayed as any other characters," De Niro said, during promotion



AP

Robert De Niro dismissed accusations that his Mafia roles have smeared the image of Italian-Americans. Friday of the animated feature "Shark Tale."

He added, "There are other characters that I've played other than those ones that have been called stereotypes or whatever."

Jeffrey Katzenberg, the producer of "Shark Tale,"

came to the actor's defense. "The interesting thing is that the people who've said this, not one of them has seen the movie."

De Niro, whose paternal grandparents were born in Italy, expressed delight at the Italian-citizenship honor.

De Niro has appeared as an Italian-American mobster in "Goodfellas" and "The Godfather Part II." In "Analyze This" and "Analyze That," he performed a comedic send up of the mafia tough-guy persona.

"Shark Tale" was premiering in a special screening at Venice's St. Mark's Square on Friday night. The cartoon movie is a sea-based tale about Mafia sharks, with De Niro providing the voice-over for finned mob boss Don Lino.

Sports Shorts

Upsets Shake up AP College Poll

(AP) -- The upsets have begun and the little guys are moving into The Associated Press poll. After ranked teams started the season 21-0, five fell to unranked opponents this weekend, shaking up the media poll released Sunday. While No. 1 Southern California and No. 2 Oklahoma had no problems holding on to the top two spots with lopsided wins, four teams fell out of the rankings - Kansas State and Missouri from the Big 12 and Clemson from the Atlantic Coast Conference and Oregon from the Pac-10. They were replaced by No. 19 Fresno State, which won at Kansas State, No. 23 Boise State from the Western Athletic Conference, and No. 24 Louisville and No. 25 Memphis from Conference USA.

College Wants Uniform Exception

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) -- The University of South Florida will ask the NCAA to grant an exemption to its uniform policy and allow a Muslim player to wear Islamic clothing on the basketball court. Andrea Armstrong, a Muslim convert, said she left the team and lost her athletic scholarship last week after her coach told her she could not wear religiously mandated clothing during practices or games. She wanted to wear long pants, a top with long sleeves and a head scarf.