

Joint Operation Demonstrates United Effort

By Pfc. Erik LeDrew
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq— With hustle and enthusiasm, two Iraqi National Guard (ING) teams conducted a cordon and search July 14, supervised by a six-man quick reaction force (QRF) team with Company D, 15th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

The search, conducted in the heat of the day when temperatures rose above 110 degrees, took place north-east of Camp Black Jack in a gathering of villages that occupy a portion of the 15th FSB's patrol zone.

"Our operation was a cordon and search looking for possible weapons caches," 1st Lt. Edward



An Iraqi National Guard Soldier explains the purpose for a cordon and search to a resident during a joint operation with the 15th Forward Support Battalion.



Photos by Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

An Iraqi National Guardsman speaks with a local man while his unit conducts a cordon and search.

Wharton, a platoon leader with the company said. "It was completely Iraqi-led, we just sat back as advisers while they executed the mission."

Although the "Daredevil" QRF team has worked with ING Soldiers before, they had not had the chance to work with these particular ING troops.

"They've been working with the 91st [Engineer Battalion, 1st Cav. Div.] for a while, doing raids and such with them," Wharton said. "Today, their mission was in our sector so we went along to observe and help out where needed."

Not much help was needed however, as the 24 ING Soldiers proved more than up to their task, despite the oppressive heat

neighborhoods clustered along a stretch of highway to the north-east of Camp Black Jack.

"The teams were just leapfrogging from village to village," Wharton said. "It was supposed to be just a cordon and search today, but it was more like a blitzkrieg; I really wasn't expecting to cover as much ground, search as many villages as they did today."

Aside from part of a rocket-propellant piece, no weapons had been found by the mission's end and most of the Iraqi villagers had been cooperative with the INGs during their "blitzkrieg."

"It's comforting to see how organized and professional [the ING Soldiers] are," said Spc. Jeremy Barton, a Daredevil QRF team-member from Tooele, Utah.

"I was definitely impressed with how they kept themselves and handled the operation," Wharton said. "I told [my commander] after we got back from the mission that, hands-down I'd work with these guys again."

and the amount of ground they had to cover.

"When the 91st Engineers handed off the duty of supervising the INGs, they pretty much told me to just take a back seat and let them work," Wharton said.

The search itself was comprised of several neigh-



Local children come to speak with members of the 15th FSB while Iraqi National Guardsmen conduct a cordon and search operation in their neighborhood.

4th BCT Warrant Officer Lights Up the Night

By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde
122nd MPAD

CAMP COOKE, Iraq — When the power goes out, Soldiers reach for their flashlights. When the power is out long enough, those batteries die all too quickly. That was the plight of one 4th Brigade Combat Team literature buff attempting to read in the dark, until he put his tinkering nature to the test.

Chief Warrant Officer 2, Karl Abeyta, property book officer, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, recently built a better flashlight to keep up

with his reading habit.

“I was going through four batteries every two nights just to keep up with my reading,” Abeyta said. “I was on a constant search for batteries.”

So, Abeyta began brainstorming ways to provide light without being connected to a power source or use a lot of batteries.

After several less-than-successful attempts at designing a reading light, Abeyta heard about recent advances to light emitting diode (LED) technology.

“Usually you can only

find LEDs in red, blue or green,” Abeyta said. “Someone came up with a way to combine the colors and make white [light]. It is sturdy, can burn for 100,000 hours, and takes very little electricity to power.”

Abeyta said LEDs have groundbreaking effects.

“It happens to be the future of lighting. [I feel] it will replace incandescent and fluorescent bulbs.”

Abeyta called his father, an electrical engineer for the past 30 years, for some technical help.

“I gave him the litera-

ture on LEDs and asked him to design an efficient circuit that would drive 10 LEDs. He came up with the schematic I have been working with ever since.”

In his efforts to make the light source more compact and efficient, the Killeen, Texas native has gone through several mock-ups.

But now, through experimentation, Abeyta feels he has the circuitry down as well as the design.

“The new design is a small box, like a lantern,” he said. “When I’m done, it will be very durable.”



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Karl Abeyta, property book officer for the 4th Brigade Combat Team,

works on his light emitting diode (LED) prototype, hoping to invent an energy-efficient lantern.

SAFETY TIP

Beat the Heat



- ▶ Drinking sports drinks alone is not adequate; balance your intake of water and electrolytes.
- ▶ Some people are at greater risk than others in the heat.
- ▶ Check on those who had prior heat injuries, and who are ill.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Praise God

alHUMD'allah

Friday

High: 108

Low: 82



Saturday

High: 108

Low: 82



Sunday

High: 110

Low: 82



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

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Students Big Losers in Car Theft

From *Killeen Daily Herald*
KILLEEN, Texas -- Somewhere in the Killeen area, there is a thief with all the fixings to be a very prepared fourth-grade teacher.

Patty Eubanks, a fourth-grade teacher at Trimmier Elementary, says she just can't understand why \$400 of teaching and classroom supplies would mean anything to anyone but her.

Eubanks was ready to start a stellar school year Monday. She packed her car Sunday night with all the goodies she would take to set up her classroom.

She rose early Monday at her Mikey Drive home to find her hatchback open and every last classroom supply stolen from her car.

"It was a clean sweep," Eubanks said. "I bet you whoever took my stuff is really, really bummed out. What are they going to do with all this teacher stuff?"

Eubanks said that all



Killeen Daily Herald

Patty Eubanks, a fourth-grade teacher at the Trimmier Elementary School in Killeen, laments the loss of more than \$400 of teaching supplies. The supplies were stolen from her car at her residence.

summer, she picked up things here and there that she thought would enhance her students' classroom experience.

"You know how teachers do; we see something and say, 'Ohhh, I need to buy this for my kids'," she said.

Her purchases weren't random, cutesy clutter items, but rather items that

she hoped would be a means to an end.

Because fifth-grade students have to pass the science section of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills Test, Eubanks decided next year she would hit science hard and make sure her kids were science savvy.

About 50 percent of the stolen stuff was science

related, including balances, scales, magnifying glasses and even little boxes in which to collect and examine bugs.

Also in the back-to-school bundle were about \$200 worth of teacher resource books, such as how to be a better science teacher. There were organizers to make her classroom more orderly and some favorites of fourth-graders, like paint, brushes and glitter.

Eubanks said it's hard not to spend her own money on classroom stuff.

"You're just trying to make your job easier and more fun for the kids," she said.

The bundle Eubanks dropped on teacher stuff is just par for the course for the profession, apparently.

Elementary school teachers typically spend more than \$500 a year, according to Quality Education Data Inc.

Portland Program Targets Homeless Youth in City

From the *Oregonian*
PORTLAND, Ore. -- The Homeless Youth Continuum, a partnership among Outside In, New Avenues for Youth and Janus Youth Programs, is launching a yearlong pilot project to reach out to chronically homeless youth in Portland.

The Road Warrior Access Pilot Project hopes to attract homeless youth to social-service providers by offering dinner and a movie four nights a week, said John Duke, clinic manager at Outside In, which is spearheading the project. Portland's hardcore home-

less youth are difficult to count because they're not in any social-service program, but providers predict they range from about 300 to 600.

"We're trying to build relationships with the hard-to-reach segment of the homeless-youth population," Duke said. "That's the trick — how do we pull them in?"

The program, which begins at the end of the month, is funded through a \$100,000 grant from the United Way.

A new approach

The grant, which Outside In received last

month, encourages reaching out to a socially isolated group while filling a gap in services, said Anne Stone, vision council manager at the United Way.

"The United Way is looking to strategically add money beyond filling program holes," Stone said. "We need to rethink how we do mental health services, by making it easier for people to come in to services."

The project hopes to attract at least 100 hardcore homeless youth — youth who have been homeless at least 30 days in the past year and are resistant to

social services, said Daniel Pitasky, associate director for New Avenues for Youth.

"We're looking to do something out of the box. The goal is to engage youth who are hard to engage in services," Pitasky said. "We're still trying to get an idea of who they are."

The program will run from 10 p.m. to midnight and will have mental health professionals on site. It will alternate between New Avenues for Youth and Outside In, which are both downtown and serve different segments of the homeless-youth population.

Rangers Sweep Detroit; Remain on Top of AL West

DETROIT (AP) - The Texas Rangers are back in first place, and they know they can thank their bullpen.

Three Texas relievers combined for three shutout innings Thursday and the surprising Rangers beat the Detroit Tigers 2-1 to complete a three-game sweep. The win, combined with Oakland's loss in New York, put the Rangers a half-game ahead of the Athletics in the AL West.

"We're very confident in our bullpen right now," said Alfonso Soriano, who hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth. "We know that 90 percent of the time, the game is over once those guys are in there."

Texas relievers pitched 7 1-3 scoreless innings in the series.

"In the offseason, we targeted bullpen depth for this reason," Rangers manager Buck Showalter said. "It's nice to see it coming together like this."

Ron Mahay and Carlos Almanzar each pitched a scoreless inning before Francisco Cordero got three outs for his 33rd save in 35 tries, sending the Tigers to their fourth consecutive loss.

"This season has been like a dream come true for me," said Cordero, who started his career with Detroit. "But it isn't just me - it is the starters who get it to the 'pen, and the other guys who get it to the ninth inning for me. That's why we are in first place."

Starting pitcher Ryan Drese (8-6) allowed one run on six hits and three walks in six innings to win

for the fourth time in five starts.

"Let's not forget that, without Ryan, none of what



AP Photo

Texas Rangers first baseman Mark Teixeira underhands the ball to his pitcher covering first base during a game last week against the Oakland A's. The Rangers sweep of the Tigers, in Detroit, leaves them one half game ahead of the Athletics in the AL West.

the bullpen did today would have mattered," Showalter said. "He did a great job."

The sweep was the Rangers' third on the road this year, the first time they have had that many since 1999. They had lost seven of nine entering the series.

"You really have to give them a lot of credit," said Ivan Rodriguez, who spent the first 12 seasons of his career with the Rangers. "They are hitting the ball well, they are catching it well and they are pitching it well."

Detroit loaded the bases in the eighth, but Almanzar retired Bobby Higginson to end the inning.

"We had some chances, but we couldn't get the big

hits," Tigers manager Alan Trammell said. "We only scored five runs in the whole series - we aren't

hitting the ball and we aren't scoring runs."

Esteban Yan (1-3) lost in relief of starter Wilfredo Ledezma, who pitched five innings. He allowed one run on two hits and two walks.

Yan replaced Ledezma to start the sixth and allowed Soriano's 21st homer of the season, a one-out drive into the right-field bullpen.

Soriano finished 3-for-4, adding a single and a triple.

Texas loaded the bases with one out in the first, but Brian Jordan grounded into an inning-ending double play. The Tigers took a 1-0 lead in the bottom half on Rodriguez's RBI single.

Detroit had the bases loaded in the second, but Alex Sanchez tapped weakly back to Drese.

Sports Shorts

Stubblefield Signs With Pats

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) --One-time National Football League defensive player of the year, Dana Stubblefield signed on with the New England Patriots Wednesday. In 11 seasons, the 33-year-old defensive tackle has played for San Francisco, Washington and Oakland, winning a Super Bowl ring with the 49ers in 1994. The 6-foot-2-inch, 290-pound lineman has started 149 NFL games and amassed 428 tackles, including 53.5 sacks. He was selected to the Pro Bowl following the 1994, 1995 and 1997 seasons, and was named the league's defensive player of the year following a career-best 15-sack season in 1997.

California Good Fit for 'Weirdo'

The Miami Herald reports that recently-retired Dolphins running back Ricky Williams is already talking about a comeback. The report cites a *Sports Illustrated* e-mail exchange with Williams in which he says he would "love it" if he were to resurrect his career in Oakland as early as next season. Last week, Williams told *The Herald* he had heard rumors the Raiders would offer the Dolphins a first-round draft pick to get his rights. To that end, Williams reportedly said California would be the only place that would accept him because there are "crazy fans who expect a weirdo." Williams is a San Diego native.