

On guard in Iraq



Photo by Karl Weisel

Members of the 709th Military Police Battalion unload mail at their headquarters in an art museum in Baghdad.

Mail call makes day for 709th MPs

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Officer

Soldiers of the 709th Military Police Battalion may not get much time to appreciate local art, but they do know what they like best about living in a museum — getting mail from home.

“My wife’s the only person that sends me mail,” said Spc. Jesse Bryant of Giessen’s 527th MP Company. “I’m waiting for two boxes. It’s better now, we’re down to nine to 12 days for getting stuff. I got mail two days in a row, including a Father’s Day card.”

“Because of the mail I think it’s getting better. It’s getting slowly, slowly better,” said Sgt. Minerva Coffey, S-1 for the 709th Military Police Battalion. One of her responsibilities is getting the mail to the Military Police billeted in an art museum in the heart of Baghdad’s monument district.

June 26 was a particularly good day for the soldiers living in the former ground floor exhibition halls. After four days of few incoming letters and packages, a late afternoon delivery prompted a score of soldiers to gleefully line up in a bucket

brigade formation to move the mail into the atrium entranceway to be sorted and passed out to the companies.

Just how long does it take to get a letter from home?

“It varies,” said Coffey. “Mail from the States gets here faster than from Germany. It took a month and a half for mail from my husband to reach me here in Baghdad. Some trucks go to Kuwait — it varies. When you get mail like that for the whole battalion, that’s pretty depressing,” she said, pointing to a two-foot-high pile destined for one of the companies billeted in the museum.

Delivering the goods has moved Coffey to undertake some unusual missions, including a road to trip north to Kirkuk, where her husband is stationed with the 173rd Airborne. Coffey arranged to be the shooter on the truck to get to make the run. “My husband’s about six hours from here. I finally saw him last week, so that makes it bearable. That was a plus. That built my morale up for a couple of weeks.”

For most soldiers that contact with home depends exclusively on letters and packages.

“I don’t really like to read, but I read here. There’s really nothing else to do,” said Bryant.

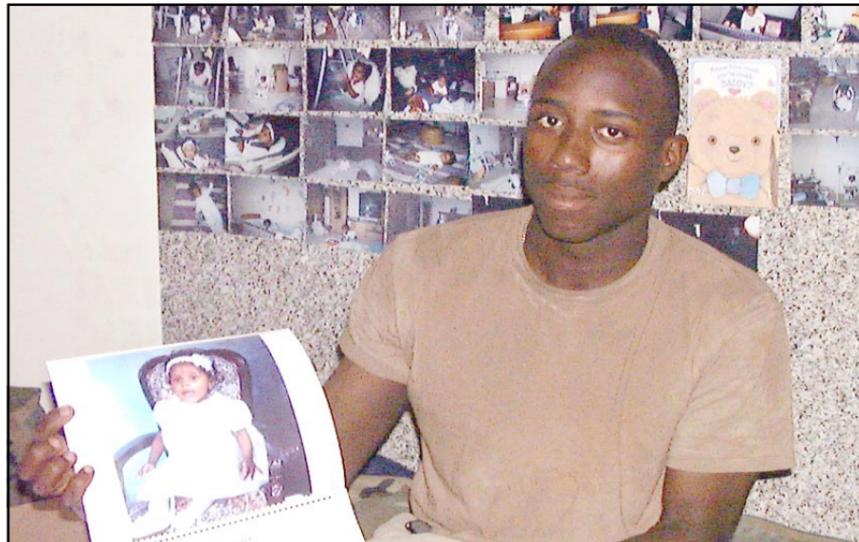
He pointed proudly to a calendar made by his wife Jenell consisting of photographs of their baby daughter Jayla with the date of significant events marked on the days they took place. “I can’t wait to get to see her,” said Bryant.

When the hubbub subsided, soldiers went back to their routines, which include patrolling and security missions seven days a week.

“It’s actually kind of a neat mission,” said Sgt. Leonard Pederson, an Armored Security Vehicle commander with the 527th. “We’re manning Iraqi police stations, issuing them weapons, running patrols. It’s a little bit more hazardous than patrolling the PX. The thing I really like is we’re usually patrolling someone’s nation for someone else. Now we’re helping the Iraqis police themselves.”

What’s the toughest part of working in Baghdad?

“If I complain it wouldn’t be any good,” said Pederson. “The heat. The mail.”



Spc. Jesse Bryant of 527th Military Police Company displays a calendar he received from his wife Jenell consisting of photographs of their daughter Jayla. The wall behind his cot is covered with photographs of the youngster who will turn 1 on Sept. 11 this year. Bryant is expecting another two packages to arrive in the post.

Photo by Karl Weisel

On guard in Iraq

Blackhawks keep watch over Baghdad

By Spc. Christopher Stanis
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

When 1st Armored Division needs someone to keep on top of an operation it turns to the 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, out of Hanau. The Blackhawk helicopter battalion does everything from conducting day and night patrols over Baghdad and the surrounding area to flying resupply missions and escorting the command group.

"We have people on standby 24 hours a day to fly missions," said Lt. Col. James Schrote, 2-501st commander. "We're taking advantage of every day and every night. We can fly any time we want and in any condition we want."

The unit proved that by initiating observation patrols around the clock immediately after arriving in Baghdad in early May. Despite the extreme weather conditions of the region the aircraft experienced no more than the same initial shock that their crews did. All 2-501st aircraft have remained mission capable since they arrived despite mechanics

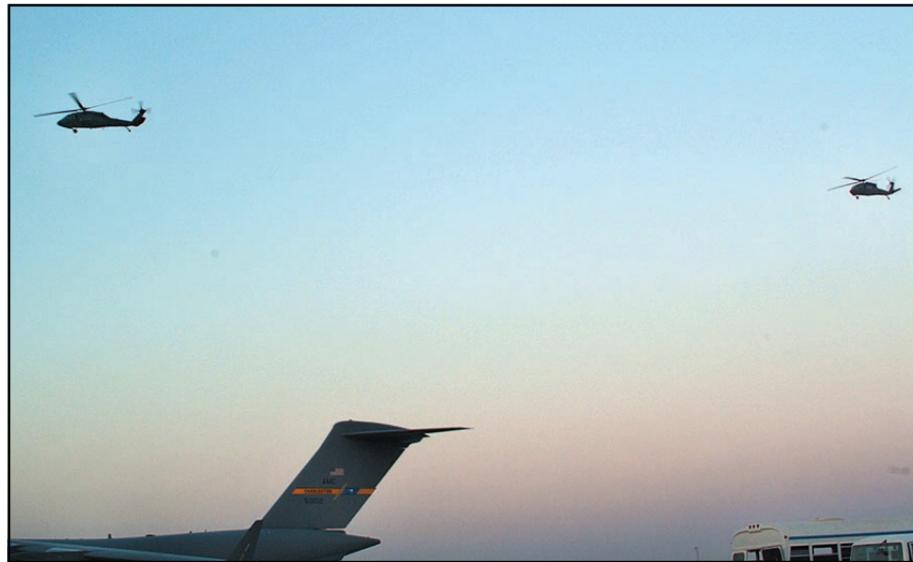


Photo by Karl Weisel

Blackhawk helicopters set off for a dusk patrol over Baghdad International Airport.

conducting maintenance with a bare minimum of equipment.

"We flew the aircraft in two weeks as

many hours as we'd fly in a month in Germany, and we did that all without parts and tools," Schrote said, praising his mainte-

nance company for doing a phenomenal job to keep the aircraft operational.

With major combat operations over, the 2-501st came into Baghdad anticipating sustainment and stability operations rather than pure combat operations, but realized the threat of conflict is still there, said Schrote. "We're not moving with impunity. We've got our eyes open and our ears open."

His pilots constantly watch what is going on and where they could land in case of an emergency. Their ability to see over obstacles and onto rooftops lends a helping hand to ground forces.

"All these areas that they can't see because they are on the ground, we can see," said Schrote. "We can see 360 degrees around you. This airframe is incredibly versatile. It's the limit of your imagination what you can do with it."

Being stationed in Baghdad is like being in a training haven, said Schrote. "Some of these junior guys are going to be extremely well trained by the time they leave here."

130th Engineers build better digs in Balad

Brigade Construction Management Section initiates improvements

By Jayme Loppnow
130th Engineer Brigade Public Affairs Office

Life is getting a little bit easier for soldiers of the 130th Engineer Brigade stationed in Balad, Iraq. Individual air conditioning units were recently installed in workplaces and sleeping areas, a "washateria" with automatic washing machines was installed and a personal hygiene

station was just completed.

These may not seem like major improvements to some back home, but for soldiers living in 110-degree heat, hand washing laundry in plastic bins and brushing their teeth outside using bottled water, the developments make life just a little more bearable in the extremely hot, dry climate.

Other recent improvements include new light fixtures, a large generator for electricity, electrical wiring, makeshift outhouses and both interior and exterior doors.

When the 4th Infantry Division seized the airfield in April, the 17-square-kilometer base was virtually unusable because of strewn garbage and the lack of plumbing

and electricity because of looting, said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mitchell, 130th Engineer Brigade Construction Management Section. "The garbage was waist high and the buildings were just shells," he said.

"When we got here, there was nothing here," said Cpl. John Panowich, who helped with the projects. "Being engineers we said, 'Can we fix it? Yes, we can.' It's been beneficial not just for us but for the entire company."

"Somebody had to do it," said Mitchell. "I like to be comfortable and since I started the improvements for my building, I did it for everyone else too."

"It's not our job to do it," said Capt. Nicholas Nazarko of 130th CMS, "but it was in the best interest of our own people and everyone else to take care of it. It's just money and why fix just one air conditioner when I can fix four? I'll spend whatever I can to make things easier. I'm glad everyone is sleeping better here at night."

Much of the material and manpower for the projects was provided by Iraqi businessman Issam al-Bahrani, who owns Baghdad Industrial Company Ltd. Mitchell and al-Bahrani met by chance in Baghdad when the section rolled through the city in April. Mitchell was able to get a tour of the factory and the two struck up a business deal, which turned into a friendship.

"For the last two and a half months it's been every other day that we see each other, and we've been friends ever since," said Mitchell.

The push for better living condi-

tions continues. Plans are in the works for contractors to install glass and screens in windows, installing central air conditioning (giving the individual air conditioners to units that don't have any) and continuing to install light fixtures and doors. The former Iraqi airfield houses about 12,000-13,000 military service members, but the renovations were specifically done for the 130th soldiers deployed here.

Flush toilets next

Mitchell said he has been working on blueprints for a septic tank for flush toilets and showers. "I want to flush a toilet just once before I leave here," he said.

Soldiers from the 130th CMS and the 890th Engineer Battalion from Mississippi helped to get the improvements done.

"It's fun because I don't get to do this every day," said Spc. David Ellington, who pitched in to build the personal hygiene station. "It's also something to do to keep my mind off the desert."

"Today the brigade, in my opinion, is living large considering the fact that we are deployed," said Spc. La Tosha Walker, who has seen the improvements firsthand. "When the 130th Engineer Brigade arrived in April there was absolutely no running water. How did we bathe? We had two choices — take baby wipe showers or use the bottled water."

Mitchell said he will continue with improvements to make life more comfortable for everyone. "The hot tub is on its way," he said, laughing.



Photo by Jayme Loppnow

Businessman Issam al-Bahrani inspects a newly installed washing machine in the 130th Engineer Brigade's "washateria" in Balad, Iraq.



Bulletin board

At the movies July 8-24

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

- July 10 — View From The Top (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 11-12 — 2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 13 — 102 Dalmatians (G) 4 p.m. Confidence (R) 7 p.m.
- July 17 — Holes (PG) 7 p.m.
- July 18-19 — Dumb And Dumberer (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 20 — Rugrats Go Wild (G) 4 p.m. The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG) 7 p.m.
- July 24 — The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG) 7 p.m.

Büdingen, Little

- July 11 — Basic (R) 7 p.m.
- July 12 — Head Of State (PG-13) 3 p.m.
- July 18 — View From The Top (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 19 — Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) 3 p.m.

Dexheim, Rhein

- July 11 — Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 12 — Dumb And Dumberer (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 13 — Rugrats Go Wild (G) 3 p.m.
- July 18 — The Hulk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 19 — Sindbad: Legend Of The Seven Seas (PG) 7 p.m.
- July 20 — The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG) 3 p.m.

Friedberg, Old Ironsides

- July 10 — Holes (PG) 7 p.m.
- July 11 — Finding Nemo (G) 7 p.m.
- July 12 — Holes (PG) 7 p.m.
- July 13 — Finding Nemo (G) 7 p.m.
- July 17 — Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 18 — 2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 19 — The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG) 7 p.m.
- July 20 — 2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 24 — It Runs In The Family (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Giessen, Skyline

- July 8-9 — Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 11 — Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 12 — Piglet's Big Movie (G) 3 p.m. Holes (PG) 7 p.m.
- July 13 — View From The Top (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 15-16 — Finding Nemo (G) 7 p.m.
- July 18 — Confidence (R) 7 p.m.
- July 19 — Dreamcatcher (R) 7 p.m.
- July 20 — Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind (R) 7 p.m.
- July 22-23 — 2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13) 7 p.m.



Lucy Liu (from left), Bernie Mac, Drew Barrymore and Cameron Diaz star in "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle," a sequel to the popular movie and television series.

Hanau, Evening Star

- July 8 — View From The Top (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 9 — Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 10 — View From The Top (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 11 — Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 7 p.m. Confidence (R) 9:30 p.m.
- July 12 — Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 7 p.m. Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- July 13 — Holes (PG) 4 p.m. Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 14 — Confidence (R) 7 p.m.
- July 15 — Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 16 — Holes (PG) 7 p.m.
- July 17 — Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 18-19 — Legally Blonde 2: Red, White And Blonde (PG-13) 7 p.m. Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines (R) 9:30 p.m.
- July 20 — Legally Blonde 2: Red, White And Blonde (PG-13) 4 p.m. Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines (R) 7 p.m.
- July 21 — It Runs In The Family (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 22 — The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG) 7 p.m.
- July 23 — It Runs In The Family (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 24 — The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG) 7 p.m.

Rhein Main, Gardens

- July 9-10 — The Hulk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 11 — Confidence (R) 7 p.m.
- July 12 — Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) 5 p.m. 2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.
- July 13 — Holes (PG) 7 p.m.
- July 16 — Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 18 — Dumb And Dumberer (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 19 — Rugrats Go Wild (G) 5 p.m. The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG) 7:30 p.m.
- July 20 — It Runs In The Family (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 23-24 — Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines (R) 7 p.m.

Wackernheim, McCully

- July 9 — Basic (R) 7 p.m.
- July 16 — The Hulk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 23 — Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Flyers

- July 10 — Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 11 — The Hulk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 12 — Sindbad: Legend Of The Seven Seas (PG) 7 p.m.
- July 17 — Confidence (R) 7 p.m.
- July 18 — Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 19 — Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 24 — X2: X-Men United (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

- July 8 — Rugrats Go Wild (G) 7 p.m.
- July 9 — View From The Top (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 10 — Anger Management (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 11 — Holes (PG) 7 p.m. The Hulk (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- July 12 — Sindbad: Legend Of The Seven Seas (PG) 4 p.m. The Hulk (PG-13) 7 p.m. Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- July 13 — Sindbad: Legend Of The Seven Seas (PG) 4 p.m. The Hulk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 14 — Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 15 — Holes (PG) 7 p.m.
- July 16 — Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 17 — Holes (PG) 7 p.m.
- July 18 — The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG) 7 p.m. Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
- July 19-20 — The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG) 4 p.m. Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 21 — It Runs In The Family (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 22 — Anger Management (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 23 — Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) 7 p.m.
- July 24 — The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG) 7 p.m.

Movies and times subject to change by local theaters. For the most up-to-date schedule visit the ASG's website (see address below).

Movie plots

Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) — Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu are back as Charlie's Angels — this time to retrieve two missing silver bands containing encrypted information. Aided by their trusty colleague, Jimmy Bosley (Bernie Mac), the Angels' adventure starts in Mongolia and ends only after Dylan (Barrymore) is forced to face a dark secret from her past.

Holes (PG) — Based on the award-winning book by Louis Sachar, "Holes" tells the story of Stanley Yelnats (Shia LaBeouf). Stanley is sent to Camp Green Lake, where he and his campmates — Squid, Armpit, ZigZag, Magnet, X-Ray and Zero — are mysteriously forced by the camp's director, Sigourney Weaver, and her right-hand men, Jon Voight and Tim Blake Nelson, to dig holes in order "to build character." Stanley soon questions why the head of the camp is so interested in anything the boys find.

The Hulk (PG-13) — Scientist Bruce Banner (Eric Bana) has anger management issues. When an accident floods his body with deadly gamma radiation he finds himself slowly mutating into another being — one with great strength and little control in this movie version of the Marvel comic book.

Bulletproof Monk (PG-13) — The Monk (Chow Yun-Fat) is a martial arts master whose duty has been to protect a powerful ancient scroll, a mysterious artifact that holds the key to unlimited power. Now, faced with finding the scroll's next guardian, the Monk's quest brings him to America where he must train his successor, a street tough named Kar (Seann William Scott).

The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG) — Lizzie McGuire (Hilary Duff) and her pals pack their bags and head out on a class trip to Italy. Lizzie is mistaken for Isabella (part of an Italian pop duo) and begins to fall for Paolo (a handsome Italian pop star and Isabella's former boyfriend). When Lizzie's parents get wind of this, they jet their way to the boot country to rescue Lizzie from herself.

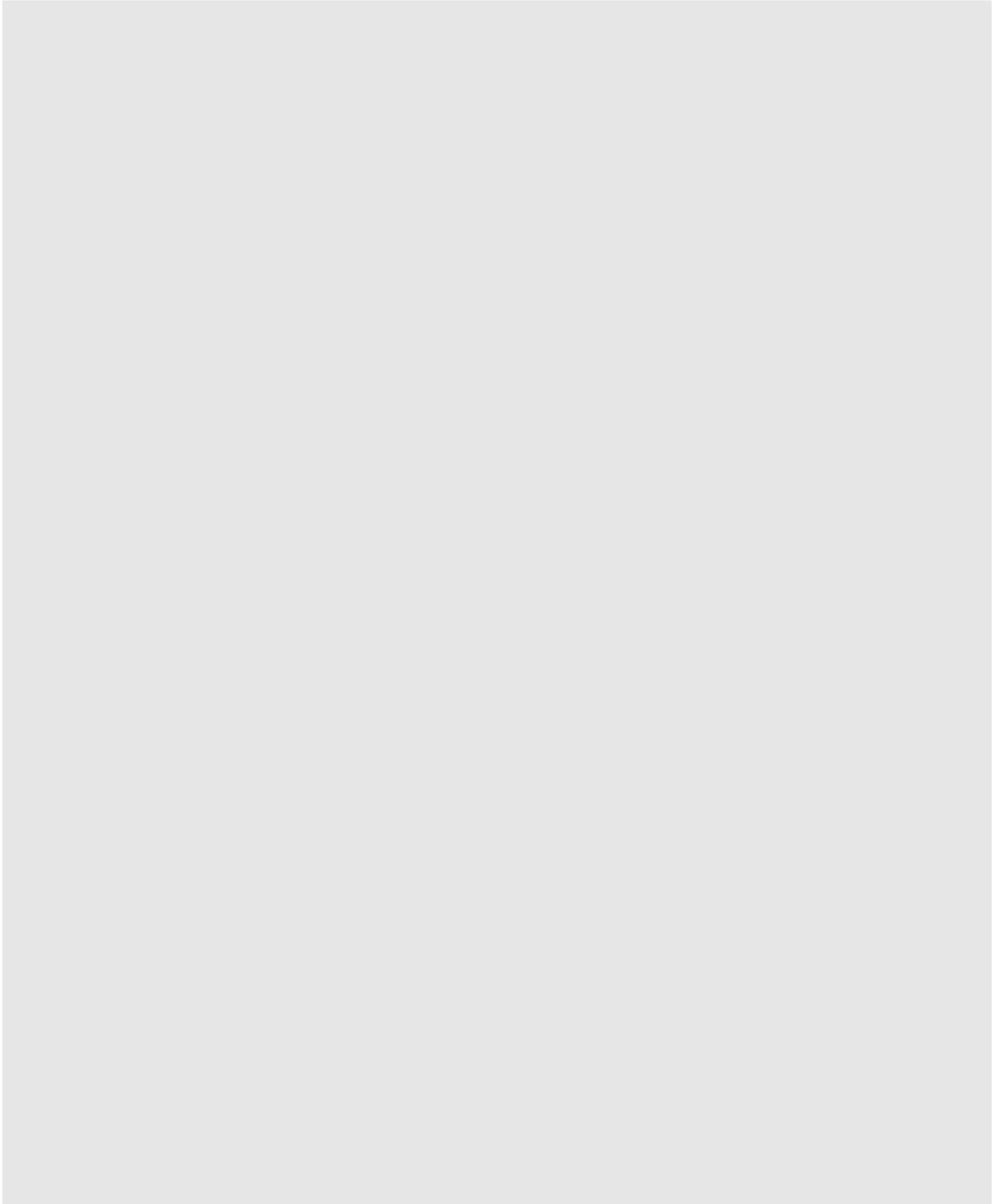
Dumb And Dumberer (PG-13) — From the beginning Lloyd Christmas (Eric Christian Olsen) knew he had a friend for life in Harry Dunne (Derek Richardson) in this prequel to the movie "Dumb And Dumber." Just starting high school, the two unwittingly fall into the web of corrupt Principal Collins (Eugene Levy) and his girlfriend, head lunch lady Ms. Heller (Cheri Oteri), who want them to be the first students in a phony special needs class in order to bilk \$100,000 in grant money for themselves. As Harry and Lloyd enthusiastically venture out to recruit more students for this new class, they unwittingly catch the attention of Jessica Matthews (Rachel Nichols), a hard-hitting reporter for the school's newspaper.

Rugrats Go Wild (G) — As castaways on a dogforsaken Polynesian island known only as Uninhabited, the Rugrats find their mirror images in television's favorite nature-documentarian family, "The Wild Thornberrys." Discovering new things about themselves as they meet their counterparts on the wild side, Tommy Pickles (voiced by E.G. Daily) and his half-pint pals have the adventure of their lives.



The Monk (Chow Yun-Fat) fights for his life while battling on a helicopter in "Bulletproof Monk."

Herald Union classifieds



On guard in Iraq



Photo by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson

Soldiers from 1-1st Armored Cavalry Regiment, 16th Engineer Battalion and 389th Engineer Battalion carry supplies into a Baghdad area school to renovate destroyed classrooms.

Soldiers rebuild schools 1-1st Cav, 16th Engineers give next generation of Iraqis stake in future

By Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Securing a prosperous future means educating the young, and that's hard to accomplish without functioning schools.

Fortunately Iraqi children are getting a hand from American soldiers in rebuilding the country's shattered education infrastructure. Soldiers from 1-1st Cavalry Regiment from Bűdingen and 16th Engineer Battalion from Giessen are helping lay the foundations for a more prosperous Iraq by repairing schools around Baghdad with the assistance of 389th Engineer Battalion, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Middleton, Iowa.

"We have 28 schools in the squadron sector and we are trying to work on all of those," said Capt. H. W. Hugh Darville, squadron engineer and Company A, 16th Engineer Battalion, commander.

The schools were a shambles, he said, having been looted. Basic supplies such as pencils, pens, erasers, paper, blackboards and desks are nonexistent or too expensive for schools to purchase. The buildings need basic refurbishing including painting and electrical repairs.

To get the ball rolling the 1st Armored Division's Engineer Brigade commander authorized money from his discretionary funds to purchase construction materials such as fluorescent lights, light switches, electrical outlets, plumbing supplies, paint and paint brushes, Darville said.

"All those things we bought in addition to new chalkboards, desks for the students and desks for teachers. We will be bringing all those things out to the different schools," he said.

Army engineers are on the ground making repairs, replacing wiring and plumbing in the school buildings, but they are not alone. "Really, it is an overall team effort. What we try to do is get the teachers and students involved in things that they can do, like painting the walls," said Darville.

Children's faces light up as they paint over line after line of pro-Saddam regime propaganda, said Darville. Walls covered with pictures of AK-47 assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers get a fresh coat of white paint.

'It's a delicate balance'

"It is a delicate balance between giving them things as aid, and making them realize that they can take charge of their own lives and fix things for themselves. We need to get them involved in things that we are doing and not just give them handouts," he said.

The overall response by students and their communities in general has been overwhelmingly positive, said Darville. "The immediate impact on the schools and communities is that it gives them some hope, something tangible that they can see."

Long-term projects on 1-1st Cavalry's to-do list include clearing irrigation channels for local farms and extensive community trash cleanups to clear the streets of garbage. "If we go out there and they see us helping out at the schools and cleaning up the neighborhoods, they can see something today," Darville said.

"When we say that we are working on the water problem and it may take a few weeks to get it fixed, they can trust us because they can see us doing things right now."

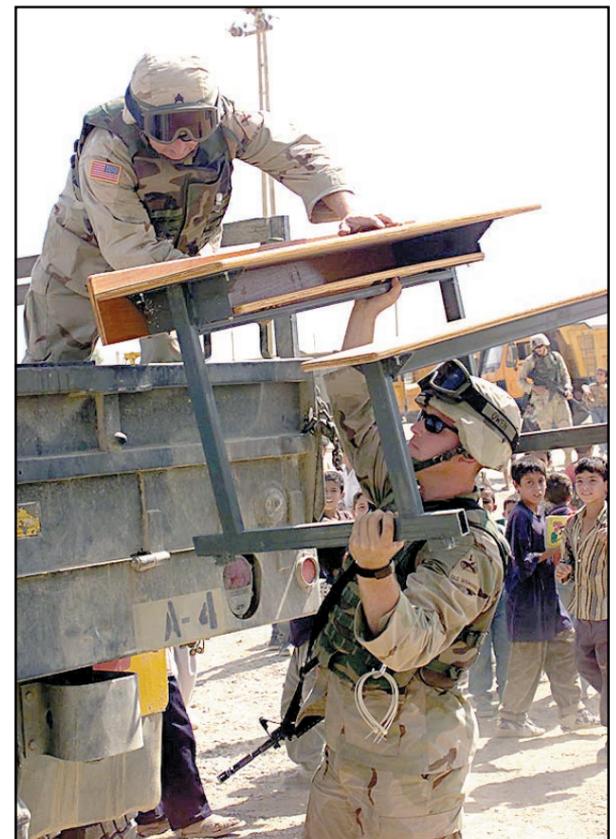


Photo by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson

Iraqi children watch as soldiers unload classroom desks.

The welfare of children is a primary focus because they are the ones who cannot help themselves. Helping them will build a better rapport with future leaders of Iraq. "If you can get to every school in Iraq and give a student positive interaction with U.S. personnel, 20 or 30 years from now some of these children will become the leaders of Iraq and that will significantly help international relations and the bonds between our two countries," said Darville.

Sports and leisure

Sports shorts

Dexheim run

Dexheim holds its second annual 123rd Main Support Battalion Run/Walk July 19 starting at 10 a.m. Registration will be held from 8-9:30 a.m. Cost is \$15. Call mil 334-5746.

Powerlifting Meet

Tony Bass Fitness Center hosts a Powerlifting Meet July 19 at 10 a.m. Cost is \$20 including a T-shirt. Register in advance by calling mil 337-5943.

Golf action

A German-American Junior Golf Clinic will be held every Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. July 8 to Aug. 12 at Baumholder's Rolling Hills Golf Course. The Rolling Hills Junior Golf Championship will be held Aug. 12. Call mil 485-7299 for more information.

The Kaiserslautern American Red Cross holds its "Save A Life" Golf Tournament at the Ramstein Air Base Woodlawn Golf Course July 24 starting at 8 a.m. Proceeds go to support the Red Cross. Call Liz Nauer at civ(06371)47-2171.

Lacrosse results

The Maastricht Lamas completed their Westdeutsche Lacrosse Liga season with a 10-0 record, winning the WDLL for the first time. The Lamas closed out the season with wins in Aachen June 22 over last year's champion, the Frankfurt Cosmos, by a score of 11-5 and Aachen 14-3. Frankfurt was to face Cologne July 6 for a chance to earn a playoff spot in the German championship tournament.

Civilian fitness

Open enrollment in the Civilian Fitness Program will be held in September. Participants interested in joining the program should contact Lori Pineda (for the 221st, 284th and 414th Base Support Battalions) at mil 322-9509 or Chris Sorrells (for the 222nd BSB) at mil 485-7306 starting in August.



Trainers, massages

Certified personal trainers are available for hire at Wiesbaden's Tony Bass and the Dexheim fitness centers. A single session costs \$35 — or purchase five for \$125. Both centers also offer massage therapy services. Call mil 337-5943 or 334-5746 to make an appointment.

Softball tourney

The 284th Base Support Battalion holds a unit-level softball tournament July 22-25 at the Miller Hall Fitness Center. It is free to unit-level teams of up to 12 players and two coaches. The top two teams advance to the 104th Area Support Group level tournament. Call mil 343-7201/8206.

Soccer tourney

Friedberg's Ray Barracks will be the site of a soccer invitational tournament July 18-19. Teams are limited to 15 players and a non-playing coach. There is a fee. Call mil 324-3155 or 3552.

Walkers, runners hit trails

Family fun walks, runs in Giessen and Hanau

Walkers and runners came out in force for events in Giessen and Hanau June 28.

Eleven runners tackled the challenging slopes surrounding Giessen's Schiffenberg Castle for a 10-kilometer run while 24 walkers took on the three-kilometer family fun walk.

Giessen's Brian Peltier was the fastest finisher with a time of 40 minutes and 20 seconds followed by Hanau's Jurgen Williams in 41:44.

The fastest female racer was Hanau's Jessica Winter in 47:20.

Other category winners were Hanau's Gail Gilderoy, first in the Female Seniors (age 30-39) category; Giessen's Linda Catt, first in the Female Master's (40 plus) category; Büdingen's Anthony Marinos, first in the Male Open (age 18-29) category and Schweinfurt's Rex Frazier, first in the Male Seniors (age 30-39) category.

Hanau's Beth Stegall was second followed by Nichole Kibler in the Female Open category. Giessen's Anne Wray was second in the Female Seniors category.

Meanwhile 11 families, including 25 people and a small dog named Spiky, turned out for the third of four scheduled Family Fun Walks at Pioneer Fitness Center June 28.

Edwin Torres, Pioneer Fitness Center director, and Leland Tabb with the help of their staff had a three-kilometer walking course marked out for the families to complete.

A number of participants ran the course, and the fitness staff checked off everyone's time as they crossed the finish line. Several children also elected to ride the course on their bikes and made appropriately good times.

This is the first year the three-kilometer and five-kilometer family fun walks have been offered in Hanau, officials said. "We want to offer an event that's good for relaxation and to decrease stress, and that is fun for the whole family," said Torres. The series began in April and the next walk is a five-kilometer event on July 26, with a starting time of 10 a.m.

Although Spiky was the only dog participating at this walk, "we usually get a few dogs



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Suzanne Fouliard, Jennifer Sturgeon and other walkers enjoy an event in Hanau June 28.

out here each time," said Torres. "I always encourage people to bring their dogs. One guy said he was going to walk with his fish, but I haven't seen them yet."

Torres added that he may add another walk to this year's series in either August or September, specifically for dog lovers to bring their two-legged friends along.

A number of babies slept through the walk while their mothers got out for a little exercise and socializing along the way. "You walk with the strollers at a brisk pace and just

compete with your own time. The babies get fresh air while living a life of leisure being pushed," said new mother and walker, Suzanne Fouliard. "It's a good way to work off the baby fat."

All participants received a certificate, and many are keeping track of their events and times in a Passport to Fitness booklet. Torres encouraged everyone to come out for the next walk on July 26. "Bring your dog, and even your fish." (Dennis Johnson and Karl Weisel contributed to this report.)

Things to do ... Things to do ... Things to do

Chili Cook-Off

The Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club holds its annual Chili Cook-Off July 25-26. Entry is \$5 per category. Reserve a camping site and get more information about the contest by calling civ(06202)51193.

Guam Liberation Day

The 2003 Guam Liberation Day celebration will be held July 19 at 11 a.m. at the Heidelberg Patrick-Henry Village Park. Cost is \$25 per family or \$10 per person. Register by July 10 by calling Joe Zuitugua at mil 381-8007 or Joe Mansapit at mil 371-2747.

Flea market, talent show July 19

The Hanau Branch of the National Asso-

ciation for the Advancement of Colored People holds a flea market July 19 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Hanau's Wolfgang Bürgerhaus. Entrance is free, but vendors must pay €20 to reserve two tables. The NAACP also hosts a Multi-Cultural Talent Show July 19 at 7 p.m. at the Bürger Haus. Cost to enter is \$25 per person or group per category (age 5-12). To reserve a flea market table or register for the talent show send a fax to civ(06185)1797 or call civ(0172)6810300.



July 12. For ticket information call civ(069)24231620. The theater is at Kaiserstr. 52, a short walk from the Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof.

Wiesbaden's Amelia Earhart Playhouse presents "Schoolhouse Rock Live! Junior" July 25, Aug. 1 and 2 at 2 p.m.; July 24, 26 and 31 at 7:30 p.m. Pickup tickets at Wiesbaden USO offices or call the theater at mil 336-2473 for reservations.

Comedy After Dark

The International Club on Fliegerhorst Kaserne presents professional comedians from the United States July 26 starting at 10 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10.

On guard in Iraq

Photo right: Soldiers from a Military Police unit head out for the open road after a stop at the Victory Palace, V Corps Headquarters, just outside Baghdad. Photo below: Cpl. Michael Flanagan gets a \$1 haircut from an Iraqi barber at the 2-6th Infantry Headquarters.



Photo by David Ruderman



Photo by Karl Weisel

Parting shots from Baghdad



Above: Spc. Christian Hinman (from left), Sgt. Shellyann Brown, Sgt. Ivan Goff and Spc. Dreama Lewis enjoy conversation and a meal at 2nd Brigade Headquarters in Baghdad. Above right: newcomers arrive at Baghdad International Airport. Far right: donkeys graze at a former Baath Party palace, now the headquarters of 2-6th Infantry. Right: Sgt. Susanna Bradley, a trombonist with the 1st Armored Division Band, washes clothes at the "Gravel Pit" on the Baghdad Airport grounds.



Photos by Karl Weisel

