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On the cover: Capt. Michael Scionti, 3rd Inf. Div. foreign claims commission, pays Naji Mejabs Arab Muhammed Al-Isawi July 23 in Fallujah, for damage the U.S. Army caused to his vehicle.

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Marne soldiers stand proud

By MSG EMMA KROUSER
3ID (M) PA NCOIC

Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) deployed in Iraq got welcome news recently, they will be redeploying. Not only will 2nd Brigade Combat Team which has been in the region since last September get to go home, but also 1st BCT which came over in January.

From the time the division rallied all of its soldiers at base camps in Kuwait until we crossed into Iraq, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigade Combat teams trained to get ready for the ultimate mission – war.

When the combat elements crossed the border, they smelled victory. Nothing else ever crossed their minds. These commanders and soldiers were not even deterred by the prospect of being slimed by the former regime using chemical or biological weapons.

These soldiers fought the ultimate fight for 21 consecutive days and never wavered. They fought day and night against an enemy that it was sometimes hard to distinguish from the everyday Iraqi citizen. Still they pushed on and fought hard.

In recent print and broadcast articles, it seems our soldiers have taken the kind of beating they gave Iraqi soldiers who chose to stay and fight. But, I am proud to stand beside any 3rd Infantry Division soldier and call them brother or sister.

These soldiers epitomize the word hero. They are battle weary and war-tested, but they are consummate professionals. No other division moved more than 600 kilometers across the desert, catching a few hours' nap here or there and fought like soldiers who have been battle tested in previous wars. The young men in the tanks and Bradleys are new to this war thing. They are young Americans who chose to defend the nation, knowing that the ultimate sacrifice could very well cost them their lives, but they fought on.

During those 21 days, the embedded media could not do enough to praise of these heroes. Now the second and third string media in Iraq are trying to crucify our soldiers. They want to dwell on the negative story ideas.

For those who would say we volunteered to join the Army, you are right. But for those who criticize our soldiers, could you do what they have done? They've seen the devastation and harsh realities of war. These are young people who want to be at home in familiar surroundings, eating pizza, drinking beer, listening to loud music – and just being young. Instead they were tasked to go to war and immediately transition from war fighting to support and sustainment operations and peacekeeping. I don't think anyone else could have done it any better.

In these other missions, they have been highly successful, so much so that

2nd BCT was sent to quell unrest in Fallujah, a virtual hotspot when they arrived. They went to the town, established their presence, met with the leaders, set the town aright and will leave a quieter, better Fallujah in the hands of the Iraqis and 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Hooah!

Each one of our brigades made their impact during and after major combat operations. I think the American people understand the frustration these young people were feeling about the uncertainty of their return to family and loved ones. No matter what they said, they never, ever gave up. They faced each mission with the professionalism of a true soldier and warrior. They never wavered in the face of snipings, ambushes, grenades launched on their compounds, bombs exploding and always took care of wounded or killed comrades. These soldiers carried out their mission in harm's way everyday in Iraq. They paved the way for other forces that were not engaged in combat operations to come to Iraq.



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

Spartan soldiers wait outside a building being raided in Fallujah during Operation Desert Scorpion.

Tuskers bid farewell to brother, comrade



Spc. Katherine Robinson

Spc. Gerard Dessman speaks at Spc. Joel Lynn Bertoldie's memorial ceremony at Habbaniyah Soccer Field July 20.

SPC. KATHERINE ROBINSON
50th PAD

*Those who hope in the Lord will renew
their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles,
They will run and not grow weary,
They will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:31*

FALLUJAH – These words echoed through the Habbaniyah soccer field July 20, as hundreds of warfighters silently, tearfully, bid farewell to a friend and a comrade.

Spc. Joel Lynn Bertoldie was killed July 18, when his vehicle passed an improvised explosive device west of Fallujah.

The 20-year-old soldier from Independence Mo., known as “Bert” to friends, worked in the S-3 section of 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment. He leaves behind a 10-month-old son and a legacy as a great man, according to those who knew him.

“On 18 July, the world became a dimmer and lesser place when Spc. Bertoldie was taken from it,” said Sgt. Patrick Jockisch, one of Bertoldie’s noncommissioned officers, at the

memorial ceremony. “His son had one of the best fathers in the world.”

Friends, fellow soldiers and leaders all spoke of Bertoldie at the ceremony, many of their voices trembling, their warrior-like façades fading in the face of tragedy.

“As soldiers, we expect and accept the fact that in a time of war we will be asked to place our lives on the line to defend what we believe in,” said Spc. Bruce Brech. “Bert believed that.”

Capt. Steven Barry, Headquarters and Headquarters company commander, recalled Bertoldie’s courage and uplifting spirit the night before the attack in the heart of Baghdad in early April.

“Ironically, my company didn’t lose any soldiers during the fight for Baghdad that day. But today we’re honoring a man who lost his life fighting cowardly Iraqis,” Barry said. “The Army cannot replace a soldier like Spc. Bertoldie.”

Barry urged his troops to fight with renewed vigor and intensity. “I challenge everyone here today to remain vigilant in the fight to kill or capture the scum that continue to attack us. They are cowards and terrorists.”

SJA recognizes Fallujah judges’ recent work

SPC. MASON T. LOWERY
50th PAD

FALLUJAH – The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) staff judge advocate presented Al Fallujah judges and lawyers with certificates welcoming them to the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Bar Association July 19.

Col. William Hudson recognized the Fallujah judicial system’s accomplishments, “I was in Baghdad yesterday bragging about Fallujah. It should be the model in Iraq. This is how the country should run.”

The Fallujah courts were the first to open in Iraq after the war. Cooperation between 2nd Brigade Combat Team soldiers and members of the Fallujah judicial system began immediately upon 2nd BCT’s arrival in Fallujah six weeks ago, leading to successful

convictions of looters and weapons violators, according to Capt. Jonathan DeJesus, judicial liaison for 2nd BCT and the Fallujah courts.

Combined efforts from soldiers of 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery; 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor; 3rd Military Police Company, and the Fallujah Police helped take many criminals off Fallujah’s streets, DeJesus said.

Once the suspects reached the courthouse, judge advocate general soldiers, and Fallujah lawyers and judges checked the cases and arranged dates for court hearings, he explained.

When the courts first opened, they tried looters. Two have been convicted. Since then, almost every suspect they see is accused of weapons violations. Twenty-seven cases are being processed.



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

Col. William Hudson, SJA, presents Judge Naseeb A'ed Jawhar Abdul with a Fort Stewart/HAAF Bar Association certificate.

DeJesus said most looters are caught with assault rifles and explosives they claim to use for fishing.

In addition to helping the court system get running again, 2nd BCT and Engineer Brigade

soldiers have helped repair the court infrastructure. Money for chairs and office supplies comes from the 2nd BCT, while the engineers provide the money for structural repairs and contracts with local workers, DeJesus said.

Engineers increase Fallujah water flow

SPC. JACOB BOYER
3ID (M) PAO

FALLUJAH – Engineer Brigade’s Contracting and Infrastructure Repair Team arranged for a generator to be installed at the Al Shudada Water Treatment Plant in Fallujah Sunday, increasing drinkable water there by 15 percent.

The generator, which allows the plant to pump out 10,000 cubic meters of purified water per day, does not completely fulfill the city’s water needs, said Capt. Peter Fraccaroli, plans officer, Engineer Brigade.

It allows the city access to more drinkable water than it has ever had.

The city received about 50,000 cubic meters of drinking water each day before coalition forces arrived, half of the 100,000 cubic meters per day it needs, Fraccaroli said. With the plant op-

erational, it now gets 75,000 cubic meters each day.

“Before we got here, many of the people were getting their water directly from the (Euphrates) River,” he said. “It’s full of sewage and chemicals. We’re trying to bring up the quality of life for the citizens of Fallujah.”

Although the plant was built before Operation Iraqi Freedom, it never had the power it needed to be fully operational, Fraccaroli said. The generator allows it to run at its full capacity.

“We had to get a generator, put down a foundation for it and make sure all the electric cables and switches were in place,” he said. “It took about four days for the contractor to get the work done.”

Most of the work on the city’s water system to this point has involved providing generators for the treatment plants and repairing the lines that carry water throughout the city, said Ahmed Jassam,



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Col. Ed Cardon and Taha Bedewi Hameed inspect the generator at the Al Shudada Water treatment plant.

Fallujah’s engineer for water plant projects.

“The coalition engineers have been very involved in building and repairing the system,” he said. “We are also working together to repair the city’s old water plant.”

Fraccaroli, who is responsible for water and sewage projects in

and around the city, said he and Fallujah’s engineers are looking at ways to further increase the amount of drinking water available to all the citizens.

Plans include adding more compact water treatment plants and the construction of a new full-size plant.

SMA visits Spartan soldiers in Fallujah

SPC. MASON T. LOWERY
50th PAD

FALLUJAH – Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilly had lunch with Spartan soldiers July 23 at the 26th Forward Support Battalion dining facility.

He played spades, joked around with, told them Army news from his end of the Army, and addressed 2nd Brigade Combat Team soldiers’ concerns.

“Be proud of who you are. Stand up straight. You made history,” he told the one hundred or so soldiers gathered for lunch with him.

He addressed the soldiers and began, in his typical fashion, with jokes about his experiences in the Army. He told one about visiting engineer soldiers at Fort Stewart last year and meeting a giant-headed, southern staff sergeant.

He enlightened soldiers with an analogy about promising his grand daughter to send her to college, after which she replied, “Grandpa, I just want to make it to second



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

2nd BCT Sgt. Maj. William Barnello present Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilly the Spartan coin.

grade.” He meant don’t worry so much about going home, stay focused on the mission.

One of the issues brought up by soldiers was what can leaders tell their soldiers about why we were promised and then let down so many times about going home.

A soldier told Tilly people were resigned to the fact that the only way to leave was to “ETS or die”.

Tilly told everyone, “I know they’re working really hard to get the 3rd Infantry out – but

don’t listen to the rumors.”

He went on to ask them how many people died in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. “Would you rather fight here or in America? Because if we don’t clean things up here, we’ll be fighting in America ... Look around, there are nasty people in this country and guess what, they’re in America too.”

Tilly said the four divisions in Iraq will eventually dwindle down to one, once conditions are safe enough. Deployments will be a year long. Anything shorter than that is gravy, he said.

He talked about the pace of the Army and said he was worried about the impact of long deployments on senior enlisted, National Guard and Reserve personnel retention. He said some soldiers will get out of the Army because of this war, but “the Army keeps rolling along.”

A soldier asked Tilly about incentive pay. Tilly told him it was important and would continue, but base pay increases for everyone are more important to bring all soldiers’ wages up.

Spartan leaders work to keep morale up

SPC. KATHERINE ROBINSON
50th PAD

Soldiers facing an extended deployment away from families and a transition from the rigors of warfighting to the uncertainty of peacekeeping ... are soldiers nonetheless. And despite 2nd Brigade Combat Team soldiers' disappointment upon being told they will have to postpone their long-awaited redeployment, Spartan leaders expressed confidence in the soldiers' ability to drive on.

"Morale is determined by the ability to do the job and not have disciplinary problems within the unit," said 1st Sgt. Rodric Dalton, first sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade. "Our morale is good."

A lot of hopes were up prior to Central Command's announcement that 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) would be staying in Iraq indefinitely.

Many soldiers experienced natural disappointment after the announcement, said Command Sgt. Maj. William A. Barnello Jr., 2nd BCT brigade sergeant major. "But these are soldiers, and they are proud soldiers, and they have something very tangible to be proud of," he said.

"Soldiers are very resilient," Barnello added. "They made it through the war ... they weathered all kinds of adversity. They'll weather this too."

In the mean time, the command group has



SpC. Katherine Robinson

Soldiers relax in the pool at the 2nd BCT compound.

begun working on quality of life improvements and recreation plans to help soldiers keep their chins up.

"We're sealing off the buildings and installing air conditioning units and working on restoring central air," said Capt. Lucius Mitchell, assistant brigade engineer. "We are also restoring electrical power to the buildings using existing electrical components and circuitry."

Mitchell said the brigade is refurbishing all the latrines and getting the water up and running again. "We're basically redoing all these buildings." He hopes to have the projects complete throughout brigade headquarters – to include attached units – by mid-September.

Air conditioning is the number one priority, according to Dalton. "That's not a luxury, that's a requirement," he said. "Hopefully within the next 10 to 14 days every soldier here will have air conditioning."

Besides making living conditions better, the brigade is also trying to improve morale by increasing the soldiers' ability to contact home and providing soldiers with recreational activities, Dalton added.

"We're setting up satellite systems," he said. The eight systems will be spread throughout the brigade units so every soldier should have access to the Internet. The satellites should dramatically increase accessibility of email and communications, Dalton explained.

"Division has pushed us satellite phones, so every task force-sized unit should have 24-hour access to a phone, and that's free for the soldiers," Barnello added. "Every soldier should be able to make a call at least once a week."

Barnello said the command group is also trying to get morale, welfare and recreation kits sent from Camp Doha – items such as board games, ping pong tables and weight sets. "We're trying to renovate the amphitheater into a movie theater," he added.

Barnello said brigade soldiers are all heroes, who have performed well in one of the most significant events of our time.

"There are great soldiers throughout the ranks," he said. "On the back side of this, they'll come out stronger and more able to face challenges. They're going through a hard time right now and it will do nothing but make them stronger."

2nd BCT Electrical fire caught in time



SpC. Mason Lowery

SpC. William Vanaxen, firefighter, attempts to lower himself into a tunnel to extinguish the fire.

SPC. MASON T. LOWERY
50th PAD

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq – Fire fighters responded to an underground electrical fire July 23 in front of the cantina at the 2nd Brigade Combat Team compound.

No injuries were reported.

Soldiers with the 336th Fire Fighting Company (attached to 2nd BCT), from Racine, Wisc., arrived on the scene within minutes to extinguish the smoldering fire.

The fire was underground in electrical tunnels too small for fire fighters to fit in, so it took about an hour and a half to extinguish it, said Staff Sgt. Dale Miller, 336th fire chief.

The soldiers first dispatched a crash truck – a humvee with a couple of fire extinguishers and tools, to the scene. When it became apparent they couldn't easily extinguish the fire, they sent in two, fully equipped fire engines.

Members of the 336th then

turned off power in the cantina and tactical operations center, which drew power through the burning wires, and tried spraying water into the tunnels to stop the fire. When they realized it was an electrical fire, the soldiers filled the tunnels with foam, extinguishing it.

They stayed on the scene another hour to make sure the fire was completely out.

No damage to equipment was reported. Electrical power was off for the remainder of the day.

Donkey brings cheer, delight to soldiers

SPC. MASON T. LOWERY
50th PAD

HABBANIYAH – A donkey, Cyclone 1, stands guard and hollers at the ladies in front of the Cyclone compound.

In the evening, Cyclone soldiers mount him and make the streets around their compound safer because of Donkey Patrol.

“Someone, one day, decided we needed a donkey,” explained Sgt. Eric Stiles, a C Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor soldier.

“We needed a mascot, so I thought, ‘Why not a donkey?’” said Staff Sgt. Charles Wooten, a tank commander with C Co.

Cyclone 1 was picked for his cunning, tactical proficiency and style. “We wanted the biggest, strongest donkey. ... It’s a morale boost for the soldiers,” Wooten said.

Stiles agreed, “Instead of sitting inside doing nothing, we can come outside and ride the donkey.”

The Cyclones held donkey interviews to ensure the perfect donkey represented them. Many scrawny, ugly, wimpy donkeys were presented to Cyclone soldiers before their interpreter introduced them to Cyclone 1. “He was so strong and manly looking,” Wooten said, cupping his hand to emphasize the point.

The soldiers pooled their money and paid



Mason T. Lowery

Sgt. Eric Stiles, C Co., 4-64 Armor, makes the streets of Habbaniyah safer with Cyclone 1 on a nightly donkey patrol.

\$210 for him.

“I also thought a donkey would be a good idea to help make the soldiers culturally aware. There are donkeys everywhere here,” Wooten claimed. “It also helps with the locals. They see we have a donkey, see that we are compassionate, and see that we are like them (in their love for donkeys).”

They’ve had him for two weeks now, and Cyclone 1 has become part of the family for the soldiers. He gets two big pans of oats, fresh grass, and water each day. “I throw apples to the neighbor’s sheep, so he brings my donkey fresh grass,” Wooten explained.

The soldiers give him a bath once a week, and sprinkle baby powder in his ears to ward

off flies.

Cyclone 1 had free reign on the compound when he first got there, but once he discovered the neighbor’s donkeys he had to be tied up. “He represents us, he hollers at the females,” Wooten said.

He has escaped a few times for rendezvous with lady donkeys, according to any proud Cyclone soldier you ask. He attempted a date a few days ago with a couple of neighbor donkeys, but came across like a pig. When the soldiers rescued him he suffered bite marks, but seemed proud of his accomplishment.

The last time Cyclone 1 escaped, the soldiers could not stop him before he ruined the reputation of their neighbor’s donkey.

“Our neighbor was real nice about it. We gave him \$10 to keep relations up,” Wooten explained.

Stiles said Cyclone 1 has become spoiled since joining the Cyclones. “He doesn’t have to work in the field anymore. All he has to do is let soldiers ride him.”

He’s a well-adjusted donkey, according to Pvt. 1st Class Chris Redd, “He’s just a very stubborn jackass. He always goes the opposite way you steer him. And every time he gets loose, he runs for the gate to (holler at the ladies).”

Former Iraqi soldiers hired as guards in Baghdad

SPC. RYAN SMITH
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD – Perhaps the most important deficiency in Iraq is security. Without an effective security force, basic needs, such as electricity and water, cannot be established for everyone in the country. Criminals have stolen or destroyed water and electrical lines that had been reconstructed or repaired, and looted and burned government buildings and public facilities, as well.

Coalition forces work around the clock to provide security in Baghdad, but there are not enough coalition soldiers to provide regular security at all of these facilities, patrol the streets, and perform their other duties as well.

Therefore, former Iraqi military servicemembers have been hired to work as security guards in banks, former government buildings and other public facilities.

The Iraqi Force Protection Security Force is an organization of approximately 77 former Iraqi soldiers who provide security at protected sites around the city, according to 2nd Lt. Jared Vineyard, fire support officer for A Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, a 1st Armored Division unit out of Baumholder, Germany.

The program began around the first of July, with more than 700 applications from Iraqi men who wanted to work as security guards, Vineyard said. Soldiers

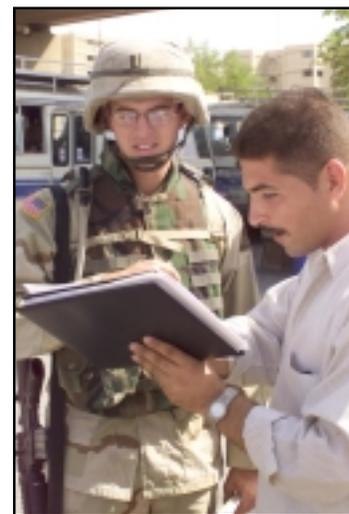
from A Company, working with interpreters, sorted through the applications and hired former Iraqi soldiers to train to work as security guards.

American soldiers ensured that the new members of the security force could handle weapons such as the AK-47 rifle, as well as clean and maintain them.

The new security officers learned about police techniques and close-quarters combat, as well.

Finally, they were taught about ethics and human rights. “We made sure that they understand that they can’t just beat up looters,” Vineyard said.

“They are excited to work,” he said. “Many of them haven’t worked in a while.



Spc. Ryan Smith

2nd Lt. Jared Vineyard, A Co., 2-6 Infantry, speaks with Mukhdad Fahda, a former soldier who serves as a security guard in Baghdad.

Saddam's sons killed in Mosul battle

LINDA D. KOZARYN

American Forces Press Services

BAGHDAD – Saddam Hussein's sons Qusay and Uday were killed in a "fierce gun battle," U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, announced at a news briefing in Baghdad.

The commander of U.S. forces in Iraq said that based on a "walk-in tip," elements of the 101st Airborne Division, Special Forces and Air Force assets raided a residence in Mosul, Iraq.

"An Iraqi source informed the 101st Airborne Division that several suspects, including Qusay and Uday — Numbers 2 and 3 on the U.S. Central Command's most wanted list — were hiding in a residence at the northern edge of the city," he said.

When the division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team approached the house, he said, the soldiers received small arms fire. "The division subsequently employed multiple weapons systems to subdue the suspects who had barricaded themselves inside the house and continued to resist detention fiercely."

Saddam's sons died when "they resisted detention and the efforts of the coalition forces to go in there and apprehend them," Sanchez said. "They were killed in the ensuing gunfight and the attacks that we conducted on the residence."

A total of four persons were killed during the six-hour operation and their bodies were removed from the building, he said. "We have since confirmed that Uday and Qusay Hussein are among the dead."

Asked how U.S. officials determined the identities of the men, Sanchez replied: "We're certain Uday and Qusay were killed. We



American Forces Press Services

101st Airborne soldiers watch as an explosion rocks the house in Mosul where Uday and Qusay Hussein were killed.

used multiple sources to identify the individuals. The bodies are in a condition where you could identify them."

U.S. officials are still working to identify two others killed in the fight, he added.

The site is being exploited, he said, and military officials continue to investigate the elements that were recovered from the scene.

Four coalition soldiers were also wounded in the operation, said Sanchez who added he is praying for their speedy recovery.

U.S., Iraqi doctors team up for girl's surgery

SPC. BRIAN T. SHARKEY

372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD – Staff Sgt. Jeffery L. Bell, a licensed practical nurse from 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment's Forward Surgical Team, blows bubbles in the air from a bubble wand to cheer up an 8-year-old Iraqi girl, who is getting a hydration intravenous drip in preparation for major surgery the next day.

Her father waits in the room as the nurses and doctors try to calm the patient. Her left foot is wrapped in gauze.

Maj. Daniel White is present. He is an orthopedic surgeon with the 2nd ACR's Forward Surgical Team. The team's primary mission is to treat American soldiers injured in the line of duty, but they also give medical care to Iraqi civilians when the medical needs are beyond the ability of local hospitals.

White will perform reconstructive surgery on the young patient's foot along with Lt. Col. Alexander Stojadinovic and two Iraqi doctors, Dr. Ali Nidhalnaddil and Dr. Usam Noilnaljar from Al Wasity hospital in Baghdad.



Spc. Brian T. Sharkey

Iraqi doctors and Dr. (Lt. Col.) Alexander Stojadinovic prepare a sonogram to check the condition of Zainad Khalaf's foot after surgery.

The girl, Zainad Khalaf, was in a motor vehicle accident, which severely injured her left foot. White saw her initially and took care of her for two days. She was then transported to Al Wasity hospital.

Under the security conditions in Iraqi, local hospitals find it difficult to have a 24-hour staff on hand for major surgical care. Since the forward surgical team had the staff, and due to their location and equipment, they in-

visited the Iraqi doctors onto the U.S. compound to help perform the surgery needed to save her foot.

The four doctors performed a free muscle graft surgery. It was a complex procedure in which they took a muscle from her back and placed it on her foot where her muscle was torn away.

"Not many surgeons have the skills to do this task," said Stojadinovic. "We are fortunate to have their (Ali and Usam's) help. They have a 90 percent success rate."

"This has never been done at this (forward surgical team) level," said Maj. Kimberly A. Smith, head nurse. "If it wasn't for the cooperation with our Iraqi counterparts and the fact that we occupied a military hospital with a working operative microscope, this (operation) would not be possible."

Stojadinovic said even combat support hospitals do not have the equipment for this type of surgery.

Both Stojadinovic and White said they have a real professional respect for the medical personnel in Baghdad.



Photos by Spc. Katherine Robinson

Capt. Michael Scionti (right), 3rd Inf. Div. foreign claims commission, counts approximately \$2,700 for Reyad Meshuf Jassim Al Janabi, the first Fallujah citizen to be paid for a claim against the U.S. military. Al Janabi filed a claim for damage to his vehicle.

Army pays Fallujah citizens' claims

SPC. KATHERINE ROBINSON
50th PAD

FALLUJAH – Fallujah citizens received settlements for claims against the U.S. Army for the first time July 23.

Twelve Iraqis gathered outside the Task Force 3-15 compound to collect on claims ranging from damaged personal property to wrongful death.

Capt. Michael Scionti, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) foreign claims commission, and other members of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate brought the list of claims, along with file folders on each claimant.

Scionti's job is to review, investigate and adjudicate claims that fall under the Foreign Claims Act. The act is a means by which foreign nationals can seek compensation for wrongful death, personal injury, or the loss or theft of personal property, he said. The claims cannot involve combat-related incidents, but can involve negligent or wrongful acts by soldiers in a non-combat environment.

"We try to compensate them for their losses ... provided they meet the minimum threshold of proof, and these all did," Scionti said. The claims all had proper documentation, receipts or proof of ownership.

One at a time, the Iraqis talked with Scionti and his interpreter, Saado Salem, and went over the claims. They then signed settlement agreements and receipts, which two witnesses also signed, and Scionti handed over the money owed.

Overall, the Iraqis received about \$8,000 in claims, payments ranging from \$100 to \$4,000, he said.

Although this was the first time for Fallujah citizens to receive payment, 3rd Inf. Div. has paid approximately \$25,000 in claims to Iraq's citizens to date, Scionti said.

"I think it went really well today," said Capt. Chet Gregg, 2nd Brigade Combat Team's legal advisor. "The Iraqi people were very happy to get the money.

"That goes a long way toward showing our commitment to making things right that we may have done wrong," he continued.

Paying the claims is an act of good will, Scionti said. "Not many armies will go into a country, cause damage, and then try to compensate."

"I'm sure Saddam's Army wouldn't have paid for (the Army) destroying stuff," Gregg said. "I think it's a small glimpse of the influence America can have on this country that even in a time of relative war, we still respect people's rights and property."



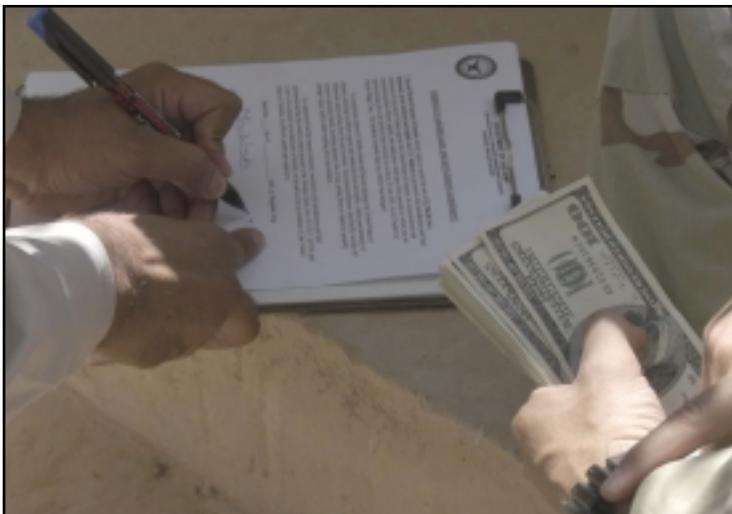
Interpreter Saado Salem goes over a settlement agreement with Naji Mejabs Arab Muhammed Al-Isawi, while Capt. Michael Scionti, 3rd Inf. Div. foreign claims commission, counts money for Al-Isawi's claim.



Capt. Michael Scionti sorts through folders of claims filed by Fallujah citizens July 23 at Dreamland.



Capt. Michael Scionti pays Jassim Muhammad Feyad Al-Obeidy. Al-Obeidy filed a claim for damages caused by the U.S. military, and was one of the first Fallujah citizens to receive pay for such claims.



Reyad Meshruf Jassim Al Janabi signs a settlement agreement before being paid.

First Iraqi women graduate FPS training

SPC. SHAUNA McROBERTS
1AD PAO

BAGHDAD — It was a simple ceremony: one guest speaker, a small audience, paper certificates. But for 14 Iraqi women, it was anything but a simple event. This ceremony, held July 22, was a huge moment in their lives: graduation from Facility Protection Service training.

"I am very happy today," one graduate said through an interpreter. "I am so thankful for the training."

These 14 females—the first women to graduate—are part of more than 4,000 Iraqis hired to be security guards with the Facility Protection Service. Once trained, the guards will work with U.S. military forces protecting critical sites like schools, hospitals and power plants.

"This is a joint Coalition and FPS operation," said Maj. Martha Granger, 1st Armored Division's chief of operations and guest speaker at the graduation. "Iraqis and Americans, men and women, will be working hand-in-hand to ensure the security and stability of the city of Baghdad and its vital infrastructure."



Spc. Shauna McRoberts

The graduates listen to Maj. Granger's speech after receiving their certificates.

U.S. soldiers have taken on the task of training the newest FPS employees. A team of five female 1AD soldiers instructed the 14 Iraqi women.

"I was nervous at first because I didn't know what I was facing," said instructor Spc. Kelly Leonard, an intelligence analyst assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade. "But these women were very receptive, very eager to learn. This is a huge step for them."

The two-day training included hand-to-hand combat, weapons familiarization, and conducting proper vehicle and person searches.

The women were also given lessons on ethics, professional conduct and personal interaction. The class concluded with a written exam.

"I was amazed," said Staff Sgt. Susan Stewart, a medic with Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion and head instructor. "I wasn't sure what to expect, but these women really impressed me. They did just great."

At the graduation ceremony, the women received Certificates of Training and were commended for their work.

"In the past month, the 1st Armored Division has hired and trained over 4,000 Iraqi people to serve as part of the Facility Protection Service," said Granger to the graduates. "However, you are the first 14 women in that large group. You should be extremely proud of yourself. You are true pioneers."

The FPS training will continue to be held on a monthly basis.

The female U.S. soldiers are looking forward to their chance of working with more Iraqi women.

"I am honored to do this," Stewart said. "I hope 30 years from now I can come back and visit Iraq and it'll be a different place. I'll know I was a part of that."

Baghdad city zoo reopens after four months

SGT. MARK S. RICKERT
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — For the first time since the war started, citizens of Iraq were invited to the reopening ceremony of Baghdad's Zoo July 19.

With the help of U.S. forces, the Office of Coalition Provisional Authority, a handful of animal conservationists and the Iraqi public, the zoo is finally accessible, once again, for the people of Iraq.

In the opening ceremony, Ted Morse, operations coordinator for the Coalition Provisional Authority, began his remarks by addressing the importance of the zoo's opening.

"The park's openness is symbolic of the new freedom of Iraq," said Morse. "The zoo is a place for the community to go and reflect on the meaning of life."

Stephan Bognae, with the wildlife conservation group WildAid, has worked with the animals in this zoo since the war ended. He says the Zawra Zoo represents a cultural center for the city—a place for the people to go and leave the reminders of war behind.

"I think this zoo is the heart of Baghdad," said Bognae. "It's like a sanctuary. You can still see the results of the war on the streets. But when you come to the zoo and see the trees, and the water, and all the animals, it's like an inner peace, an inner sanctuary. It's a cultural center."

When the war ended, coalition forces found the zoo in a tragically



Sgt. Mark S. Richert

Ted Morse, operations coordinator of the Office of Coalition Provisional Authority, prepares to cut the ribbon at Zawra Zoo.

derelict state. The employees were not there. The animals were starving and had no water.

Some had escaped through holes in their cages, while looters stole what animals they could and whatever equipment or materials they could, Morse said.

"The damage and destruction caused to the zoo during the war was nowhere near as damaging as the looting after the war," he said.

MASCAL exercise tests response teams

SPC. CHRISTOPHER STANIS
1AD PAO

BAGHDAD – Three people were killed and 38 others injured after an explosion occurred at Baghdad International Airport July 19.

This scene described a mass casualty exercise conducted at BIAP.

Though only a drill this time, the scenario is a realistic possibility with the airport soon to open for civilian air traffic.

The purpose of the MASCAL was to ensure the readiness of all emergency response assets at BIAP.

“The big key ... is to get all of the different (military and civilian) emergency response agencies on the same page so the highest number of casualties can be treated at the highest rate of efficiency,” said 2nd Lt. David Korty, Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion executive officer, who tracked casualties and provided command and control for the exercise.

Agencies involved included 1st Armored Division and Air Force units, the BIAP fire department, Sky Link, Homeland Security, Transportation Security Agency and International Civil Aviation Organization.

The exercise showed ICAO that there was a plan set up, should an incident occur.

The annual requirement by ICAO was mandatory for the airport to open, said retired Marine brigadier general Mike Aguilar, who now works for TSA.

He added that the exercise proved there is a sound and executable plan in place.

“With the airport opening soon, the threat of attack is there and the probability of attack is there,” Aguilar said. “If any airport in the



Spc. Christopher Stains

Soldiers at BIAP evacuate simulated casualties from the terminal during a mass casualty exercise July 19.

world should have a plan, it’s this one.”

According to Lt. Col. John McGrath, 1AD division surgeon, it took four minutes from the time of the call to the arrival of the first fire truck and 11 minutes to the first ambulance at the incident, which is “blazing fast, in medical terms.”

Roads leading to the passenger terminals were closed off, and “victims” were transported by ambulance to medical aid stations depending on the severity of their injuries.

The 159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) provided support for those who required air evacuation.

22nd Signal motor pool keeps vehicles rolling

SPC. RYAN SMITH
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD – New York has traffic. Houston has traffic. Los Angeles has traffic. Driving in cities such as these takes a toll on drivers as well as their vehicles.

But if the wear and tear on a vehicle driven in these cities can be compared to a football game, the three above are only in the peewee league. Iraq is the Super Bowl.

That’s where the soldiers of C Company, 440th Signal Battalion’s motor pool come in. They endure the scorching heat of the sun at Camp Victory in Baghdad to maintain and repair their unit’s vehicles every day.

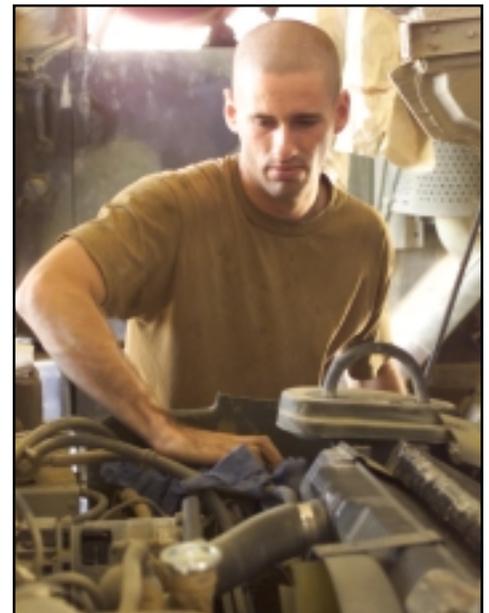
The unit is part of the 22nd Signal Brigade and performs preventive maintenance checks and services to the company’s light wheeled vehicles, as well as repairing damaged or worn out parts, said Sgt. Rodger Evans, senior mechanic for C Company.

Because of the hot, dry weather and poor condition of the roads here, the motor pool soldiers have been kept busy. The unit repairs or replaces vehicle parts daily, such as torn CV boots, dead batteries and blown tires, Evans said.

“We troubleshoot problems,” said Spc. Cole Rose, a light wheeled vehicle mechanic from C Company. “We’ve replaced a lot of alternators, oil pans and starters. A lot of it is because of the (hot) weather.”

The soldiers also run missions to Camp Dogwood, near Baghdad, regularly to resupply their shop, as well as to drop off vehicles that have problems that they can’t repair at their own motor pool.

C Company’s motor pool soldiers keep other units on track with their missions. In an environment where a breakdown could mean disaster, repairs and maintenance are essential. “The rest of our unit can’t move if their trucks aren’t working,” Rose said.



Spc. Ryan Smith

Spc. Cole Rose, C Company, 440th Signal Battalion, checks fluid levels on a Humvee.

Baghdad police finish safety academy



Sgt. Mark S. Rickert

Col. Teddy R. Spain, commander, 18th Military Police Brigade, addresses graduates at the Baghdad Public Safety Academy.

SGT. MARK S. RICKERT
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police officers graduated from a three-week retraining course July 16 at the Baghdad Public Safety Academy. It was the first Baghdad city police graduation class since the recent war.

The dean of the academy, Baghdad police officer Brig. Gen. Ahmid Ibrahim and Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, head of the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad, both made remarks during the ceremony.

Bernard Kerik, senior policy advisor, Ministry of Interior, called the “top cop” in the United States, gave a short speech, and, after comments from a leader of the class, commander of the 18th Military Police Brigade, Col. Teddy R. Spain, gave encouraging remarks to graduates.

The purpose of the three-week training program is to introduce and improve human rights knowledge, democratic policing prin-

ciples, and modern policing techniques for the Iraqi Police Service.

The program focuses on international standards for human rights, modern police patrol procedures and techniques and applicable Iraqi criminal laws, procedures and laws of arrest and detention.

“Police in any country have a very important role to play,” said Bremer. “In Iraq, a country that is emerging from totalitarian rule, the role of police is crucial.”

The 96 students of this first cycle are prior Iraqi police officers. According to Bremer, the new wave of “retrained” officers must set the path for a new police force, one that is just and free of corruption.

“You must overcome the distrust of Iraqis toward officers and officials in this state,” Bremer said. “In the old regime, the secret police, Baath party loyalists, the Fedayeen, and all the thugs that worked for the former regime, have scarred this country and its people. You have to show your fellow citizens that you have broken with this terrible past.”

Soldier ensures unit gets homestyle meals

STAFF SGT. CONRAD COLLEGE
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD – Sgt. April Denise Brown just loves to cook, so, a few months ago, when she was asked to serve as the cook for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 352nd Civil Affairs Brigade in Baghdad, she was happy to oblige.

The civil affairs soldiers are happy, too, because, thanks to Brown and a few other soldiers, the unit is now getting practically home-cooked meals for dinner, six days a week.

The 352nd Civil Affairs Brigade is an Army Reserve unit out of Riverdale, Md.

From fried chicken to lasagna to apple cobbler, and from fresh tossed salads to fruit salads, the dinners prepared by Brown and her helpers are always a treat for the civil affairs soldiers, who certainly look forward to sitting down to a home-cooked meal at the end of a hot and dangerous day in Baghdad.

Brown said she cooks a lot back home in Maryland, where she lives in Glen Burnie and works for the U.S. Postal Service in Odenton, which is near Fort Meade. “I’ve been cooking since I was 15,” she said. “My mother was a single parent so we had to learn to cook if we wanted to eat.”

Besides her full-time civilian job at the postal service, Brown does some catering on the side.

“I cook for weddings, receptions and change-of-command cer-



Staff Sgt. Conrad College

Sgt. April Denise Brown, Glen Burnie, Md., prepares pork chops for her unit.

emonies — anything from cakes to eight-course meals,” she said. “But I am not really a cook in the Army, by military occupational specialty, I am an administrative specialist.”

When the unit deployed from Maryland to Iraq some soldiers asked Brown, “Can you please fix us something to eat?” She said she would try and she’s been cooking in Baghdad ever since then, she said.

The meals are very good, according to Sgt. Maj. Dan Anderson, deputy resource manager for the 352nd. “Really the food is as good as in any restaurant,” he said.

The soldiers are continually surprised at how tasty the meals are, calling them home-

cooking, although some of the rations come from the U.S. frozen but partly cooked.

“Is there a culinary award for someone who’s not in the culinary arts?” asked Lt. Col. Mary Ann King, information coordinator for the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Center in Baghdad. “She really takes pride in her work. She enjoys her work,” King said.

Brown has great help from Staff Sgt. Giselle Tapia in the kitchen and Spc. Eric Lopez, driver. They get their food from the ration point at the Army’s main Baghdad base at Baghdad International Airport.

“All of the food, except breads and drinks, comes from the United States, and we use only bottled water for cooking,” Brown said. “So we know it’s safe and we make it tasty. This is the place to come for a good home-cooked dinner, thousands of miles from home.”

GLOBAL NEWS

N. Korea warns of war amid tensions

JAE-SUK YOO
AP

SEOUL—The Korean War ended 50 years ago, yet tensions remain high amid suspicion that North Korea is developing nuclear weapons.

In a reminder of uneasiness along the world's most heavily armed border, the communist country warned of a new war July 26.

The warning came ahead of the 50th anniversary July 27 of the armistice that ended the 1950-53 armed conflict on the world's last remaining Cold War frontier.

"The arrogant and outrageous moves of the U.S. imperialists to stifle the DPRK by force are being carried into extremes," North Korea's army Chief of the General Staff Kim Yong Chun said.

North Korea "will promptly beat back any precision strike, surgical operation-style strike and pre-emptive nuclear attack with the powerful war deterrent force," Kim said.

U.S. officials believe North Korea already has one or two nuclear bombs, and has programs that can build several more atomic bombs within in a matter of months.

The United States and its allies want North Korea to end such programs.

Pyongyang, however, accuses Washington



About 37,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea. South Korea has a 690,000 strong military.

of inciting the dispute to use as an excuse for an invasion. Washington wants a diplomatic solution, but has not ruled out military options.

"A diplomatic solution is imperative," said United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan in a statement released Saturday to mark the upcoming anniversary. "It is also a realistic possibility."

Korean War veterans echoed the U.N. chief's hopes for a peaceful resolution to avoid another war on the divided Korean Peninsula.

"Pray to God it doesn't happen again," said Benjamin Whitchurch, a British war veteran.

"Because the war as we knew it in the 50s has advanced so many times with all the different destruction bombs ... it would be an annihilation."

Whitchurch and about 70 other British veterans attended a commemorative ceremony at a former battlefield in South Korea near the mine-laden border with North Korea. Britain fought as a member of the 16-nation U.N. force against China- and Soviet-backed North Korea.

Hopes of talks to deal with the North Korean nuclear crisis have been rising in South Korea in recent weeks.

South Korean officials have expressed optimism that the United States, North Korea and China will meet in Beijing soon, possibly next month, to discuss the nuclear standoff.

The United States considers North Korea's nuclear ambitions a regional threat and insists on multilateral talks involving South Korea, Japan, China and possibly Russia.

North Korea wants a one-on-one meeting with the United States.

A Japanese newspaper reported Saturday that North Korea has threatened to conduct a nuclear test if the United States does not respond positively in their dialogue to resolve the dispute.

At least 15 killed in Liberian shelling

AP

MONROVIA, Liberia - Artillery shells hit a church crowded with refugees near Monrovia's port July 27, killing at least 15 people taking shelter inside, including whole families.

It was the second fatal shelling in two days of buildings packed with refugees in Liberia's capital, under siege by rebels in a now week-old offensive.

The Greater Refuge Church, sitting on a hill overlooking Monrovia's rebel-held port and heavily contested bridges leading from it, has taken in hundreds of refugees from outside the capital since June.

Witnesses said five shells slammed into the ground around the church about 4 a.m.

A sixth hit the church building directly, exploding among the refugees bedded down for the night.

Neighbors, contacted by telephone, counted 15 bodies laid out in front of the church, surrounded by wailing survivors. Dead included a

husband, wife and children of at least one entire family.

Hospital workers said they still were taking in numbers of wounded from the barrage, and could provide no immediate casualty toll.

"People are still crying. Rockets have been falling all around us," Kate Wright, who lives near the church, said by telephone.

A mortar round exploded around her as she talked, and Wright said she could hear gunfire.

Wright said the mortar rounds were coming from the rebel-held port.

Refugees prepared to move the dead down from the hill, to where others were digging a mass grave.

Rebels have waged a two-month battle to take Monrovia and drive out President Charles Taylor, a former warlord behind 14 years of near perpetual conflict in this West African country. Fighting has focused on the port and three bridges leading to downtown, one of Taylor's last strongholds.

Both sides have blamed the other for repeated shelling into densely populated civilian neighborhoods.

Saddam and sons planned guerilla war

CNN

BAGHDAD — Saddam Hussein and his sons were shocked at their defeat by U.S.-led forces and met secretly after the fall of Baghdad to plan a guerilla resistance, according to a former bodyguard for Uday Hussein.

The bodyguard, who called himself Abu Tiba, was interviewed by Newsday reporter Matthew McAllester in Iraq shortly after his boss was killed Tuesday, according to the U.S. military, along with his brother, Qusay Hussein, by U.S. forces in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

Graphic videotape images of the two bullet-riddled bodies were beamed around the world Friday in an effort by coalition forces to dispel doubts that the brothers are dead. Abu Tiba said the meeting to plan the guerrilla

war was only known to a small number of the ousted president's most loyal supporters, "so that no one would know the details of the resistance," Newsday quoted the bodyguard as saying.

His comments came as American forces hailed the capture of several of Saddam's personal bodyguards during a raid in north-central Iraq.

Abu Tiba also said the March 20 "decapitation strike" by U.S. forces at the start of the war — an attempt to kill Saddam and top members of the government — missed badly, the newspaper reported.

"The intended targets were nowhere near, staying in private houses scattered across the city," the article said.

A similar attack on the Mansour neighborhood in Baghdad April 7 also missed Saddam and his sons — but only



AP
Uday and Qusay Hussein were second and third on U.S. list of most-wanted Iraqi leaders.

by 10 minutes, the bodyguard said.

The set-up for that meeting also turned out to be a test for a certain captain on Saddam's staff, who was the only one told about the meeting.

"We went inside and then out the back door," Abu Tiba said. "Ten minutes later it was bombed. So they killed the captain."

McAllester told Anderson Cooper on CNN's Live from the

Headlines that Saddam Hussein and his sons frequently appeared in public even after coalition troops entered Baghdad, once visiting a mosque together April 11 — two days after Baghdad fell.

"An old woman ... went up to Saddam and said 'What have you done to us?'" McAllester said.

"Saddam apparently slapped his forehead as if it hadn't occurred to him that this could be happening and he said 'What can I say? I've been betrayed by my commanders and I hope that we will fix everything and we will be back in power.'"

Abu Tiba told McAllester that Saddam's commanders had betrayed him by failing to carry out elaborate plans to protect Baghdad, which included three lines of defense around the capital and the setting of explosive charges to kill U.S. troops as they arrived near the city.

Israel offers to remove three roadblocks

JOSEPH COLEMAN
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM - With the Palestinian prime minister in Washington, Israel promised to remove three major roadblocks and give the Palestinians control over two more West Bank cities — continuing cautious moves under the shadow of claims that militants kidnapped or killed an Israeli soldier.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas met with President Bush at the White House on Friday in hopes of getting the Americans to pressure the Israelis to move more quickly on the peace plan.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon meets Bush in Washington on Tuesday, and Bush told reporters in a joint news conference with Abbas that he welcomed the moves announced by Sharon's office.

In addition to handing over two cities, Sharon's office said Israel would take down three major roadblocks, and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz ordered defense forces to

reevaluate the need for others.

Israel erected the roadblocks throughout the West Bank to stop suicide bombers and other attackers. But Palestinians say the roadblocks are demeaning and greatly hinder the movement of ordinary people while determined attackers find ways around them.

In a statement, Israel also said it would continue to evacuate illegal settler outposts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and "consider ways to minimize hardship" caused by Israel's construction of a security fence near the border with the West Bank.

The statement said Israel also would open a road linking Nablus and Jenin and transfer \$16 million of frozen Palestinian assets to the Palestinian Authority.

Further handovers of cities and dismantling of roadblocks are among moves the Palestinian Authority has been demanding as part of the "road map" peace blueprint.

The statement by Sharon's office said decisions on which cities would be handed over and the timing of the transfers would be taken next week in a meeting between the Israeli

defense minister and the Palestinian security chief.

Abbas is under heavy political pressure to win Israeli concessions as a way of generating Palestinian public support for the peace plan and bolstering his own flagging political backing.

So far, Israel has pulled troops out of parts of Gaza and the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

But since those withdrawals, progress has been stalled on the peace plan, which calls for an end to violence and Palestinian statehood by 2005.

A temporary truce declared by Palestinian militants on June 29 has greatly reduced the bloodshed of the previous 33 months. Sporadic violence, however, has persisted.

An Israeli soldier opened fire on a truck on the West Bank on Friday, killing a 4-year-old boy and wounding two other children. The Israeli army said the shooting was accidental.

Also Friday, police searching for missing Israeli soldier Oleg Shaichat said he had most likely been kidnapped or killed by militants.

Two die in copter crash near wildfire

ANABELLE GARAY
AP

PHOENIX - A helicopter dropping off a crew of elite firefighters crashed Saturday morning, killing two people and seriously injuring two other crew members, officials said.

The identities of the two who died were not immediately known, but one was the pilot, said Mike Todd, a spokesman for Native Air Ambulance. Two crew members were transported to hospitals.

The contract helicopter was taking a crew from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to begin an initial attack on a fire in the Aspen Ridge area, said Margo Whitt, a fire information officer. Four people were on board when the helicopter crashed about 175 miles north-east of Phoenix.

In Idaho, scores of firefighters attended a memorial service Saturday for Jeff Allen, 24, who was overrun by flames after he and a co-worker rappelled to the ground from a helicopter to fight a blaze

in the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

On Friday, a helicopter pilot was killed when his aircraft crashed while fighting a wildfire in northeastern Washington state. Randall Harmon, 44, of Grants Pass, Ore., was the only occupant of the helicopter, which went down on the Colville Indian Reservation, said fire spokesman Nick Mickel.

The fire Harmon was fighting had burned about 2,200 acres and was 70 percent contained Saturday, authorities said. Federal and state investigators were expected at the scene Saturday and Sunday.

In Montana, firefighters bulldozed an old road Saturday in an effort to protect the town and the Glacier National Park headquarters complex from a spreading wildfire.

West Glacier will be evacuated if the fire moves to within three miles of town, fire information officer Andy Williams said. The town has some 250 permanent residents and grows to about 400 in summer.



AP
Flora Jensen returns to her home with her daughter and brother July 18 in Whiteriver, Ariz. Thousands of people evacuated after a raging wildfire threatened homes.

The fire had about a mile to go before reaching that trigger point, Williams said.

Three wildfires in Glacier National Park already had chased away thousands of park visitors, and had blackened more than 40,000 acres. One fire, in the northwest portion of Glacier, de-

stroyed six houses.

About 1,000 people were evacuated in Southern California's Riverside County, where about 200 homes were considered in danger after a fire quickly burned more than 4,300 acres, moving along rocky canyon ridges in the San Jacinto area.

FDA OKs growth-hormone shots for short kids

AP

WASHINGTON — Children who are healthy but abnormally short will be able to have injections of growth hormone in hopes of gaining 1 to 3 more inches of height, the Food and Drug Administration said Friday, deciding an emotionally charged issue.

The drug, called Humatrope, is not for normal kids yearning for a few extra inches, the FDA cautioned.

Maker Eli Lilly & Co. counts some 400,000 such children ages 7 to 15, but predicts that only about 10% ultimately would receive growth hormone because of tight restrictions it plans on eligibility, and because many families simply won't want to endure up to six shots a week for years.

"This is not cosmetic use," stressed David Orloff, the FDA's endocrinology chief.

Also, "this is not saying short stature is a

disease," he said. "We are saying that to the extent some of these children and their parents and their doctors feel they would benefit, or they would rather be a little taller than a little shorter, ... the drug does work."

Growth hormone has been used for 16 years to treat children who are extremely short because their bodies don't naturally produce the substance or because of a few other growth-stunting diseases. Some 200,000 children worldwide have taken it.

Lilly sought FDA approval to market formally its brand of growth hormone, Humatrope, for children who don't have those medical conditions but are abnormally short anyway: boys predicted to be shorter than 5-foot, 3-inches as adults, and girls shorter than 4-foot, 11 inches.

The FDA has long fought the continuing problem of cosmetic use of growth hormone and struggled to define just what constituted

meaningful, medically appropriate use of the drug without opening floodgates to children of normal height.

Lilly's studies of about 300 children with no known causes of abnormal shortness found regular Humatrope injections provided an extra 1.5 inches to 2.8 inches of height by the time they reached adulthood.

Last month, the agency's scientific advisers agonized over whether the FDA should approve this new use of Humatrope and questioned whether growing those few more inches helped children's quality of life enough to justify spending \$10,000 to \$25,000 a year for the drug — and getting so many shots.

Ultimately, an impassioned New York teenager persuaded them it did, describing being ostracized in elementary school when she couldn't reach the water fountain and imagining a life too short to even reach a car's pedals.



Sports Highlights



Tour de France

1. Lance Armstrong
USA 80:02:08
2. Jan Ullrich
Germany -1:16
3. Alexandre Vinokourov
Kazakhstan -4:29
4. Tyler Hamilton
USA -6:32
5. Haimar Zubeldia
Spain -7:06
6. Iban Mayo
Spain -7:21
7. Ivan Basso
Italy -10:12
8. Christophe Moreau
France -12:43
9. Carlos Sastre
Spain -18:49
10. Francisco Mancebo
Spain -19:30

MLB

American League Thursday

Baltimore 5, NY Yankees 3

National League Thursday

Pittsburgh 7, Cincinnati 5

Tampa Bay 15, Boston 9
Minnesota 6, Kansas City 2
Chi White Sox 4, Toronto 3
Detroit 7, Cleveland 4
Anaheim 10, Texas 6
Oakland 6, Seattle 0

Friday

Minnesota 6, Cleveland 5
Kansas City 8, Detroit 3
NY Yankees 4, Boston 3
Toronto 5, Baltimore 3
Chi White Sox 7, Tampa Bay 2
Oakland 3, Anaheim 2
Seattle 11, Texas 5

Saturday

Boston 5, NY Yankees 4
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2
Oakland 8, Anaheim 1
Seattle 4, Texas 0
Cleveland 9, Minnesota 2
Tampa Bay 10, Chi White Sox 6
Detroit 5, Kansas City 1

Atlanta 5, Florida 2
Philadelphia 14, Chi Cubs 6
Los Angeles 1, Colorado 0
San Francisco 3, Arizona 2
Milwaukee 2, Houston 1
Montreal 5, NY Mets 1

Friday

Montreal 9, Atlanta 8
NY Mets 3, Cincinnati 1
Florida 11, Philadelphia 5
Chi Cubs 5, Houston 3
Pittsburgh 10, St. Louis 5
Colorado 7, Milwaukee 3
Arizona 2, Los Angeles 1
San Francisco 5, San Diego 2

Saturday

Houston 3, Chi Cubs 1
St. Louis 13, Pittsburgh 8
Arizona 1, Los Angeles 0
Florida 10, Philadelphia 5
Atlanta 15, Montreal 4
Cincinnati 8, NY Mets 3
Colorado 13, Milwaukee 8
San Diego 2, San Francisco 1

WNBA

Eastern Conference

Detroit 14-6 .700
Charlotte 13-10 .565
Indiana 12-10 .545
Connecticut 13-11 .542
Cleveland 11-11 .500
New York 9-11 .450
Washington 5-17 .227

Western Conference

Los Angeles 18-5 .783
Houston 13-8 .619
Seattle 13-10 .565
Minnesota 13-10 .565
Sacramento 12-12 .500
San Antonio 6-16 .273
Phoenix 3-18 .143

Friday

Minnesota 81, San Antonio 54
Seattle 82, Phoenix 53

Saturday

Cleveland 89, Washington 78
Houston 61, New York 53
Connecticut 74, Charlotte 70

Stringer's widow to sue NFL

An attorney for Korey Stringer's widow said she will sue the NFL on Monday, alleging that the league's policies led to Stringer's heat stroke death during Minnesota Vikings training camp in 2001.

Stan Chesley said Kelci Stringer's suit would also name football helmet maker Riddell Sports Group Inc., and some NFL medical advisers. He said the federal lawsuit would include a wrongful death claim on behalf of Stringer's family, and a class action claim on behalf of all NFL players.

Hasek may face charges

Dominik Hasek's agent said that the goalie's legal troubles in his homeland should not impact his return to the ice for the Detroit Red Wings this season, the Detroit Free Press reported Saturday.

In the Czech Republic, police completed their investigation and say charges should be brought against the NHL star for hurting a player during an inline hockey game.

Hasek, returning to Detroit after a one-year retirement, has denied any wrongdoing.

Armstrong locks up Tour

Staying steady on rain-slicked roads while his rival fell during a dramatic time trial Saturday, Lance Armstrong pretty much assured himself of a record-tying fifth straight title and a place in cycling's pantheon.

Never quite satisfied, Armstrong already vowed that he'll be back next year to chase an unprecedented sixth win in the sport's most prestigious race.

He finished 11 seconds ahead of challenger Jan Ullrich in Saturday's 19th stage, stretching his lead to 1 minutes, 16 seconds.

Bryant prosecutor threatened

The FBI is investigating threats against the district attorney prosecuting Kobe Bryant, The Denver Post reported Saturday on its web site.

Krista Flannigan, spokeswoman for District Attorney Mark Hurlbert, confirmed Saturday that the threats were being investigated.

Flannigan wouldn't comment on whether any threats had been made against the 19-year-old woman who alleges Bryant sexually assaulted her in Eagle County, nor would she say what precautions Hurlbert has taken.

Body may be Dennehy's

A body found at a rock quarry near Baylor University was too decomposed to immediately determine whether it was that of missing basketball player Patrick Dennehy, authorities said Saturday.

The body was found by an investigator Friday night in an area not previously searched, but in the general vicinity of where authorities had been looking for the Baylor athlete, said McLennan County Sheriff Larry Lynch. The scene, five miles southeast of Baylor, was secured overnight.

Pujols suspended for fight

St. Louis Cardinals slugger Albert Pujols was suspended for two games and fined by major league baseball for fighting after being hit by a pitch against San Diego.

Padres catcher Gary Bennett and manager Bruce Bochy were fined for their roles in the bench clearings during the Cardinals' 3-1 victory July 13.

In the first inning, Pujols was hit in the shoulder blade on the first pitch he saw from Adam Eaton.