

THE

LIBERATOR

May 28, 2003
Issue 1, Vol. 1



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3ID soldiers patrol streets of Baghdad

THE LIBERATOR

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On the cover: A group of Iraqi children peer out of a doorway as soldiers from 3rd Infantry Division, (Mech.) and 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion pay a visit to their village.
Photo by Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke.

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COMMENTARY

It's the people...

SPC. JACOB BOYER
3ID (M) PAO

Before Operation Iraqi Freedom began, there was a lot of debate around the world about whether we should use military action to topple Saddam Hussein and his Baath Party's regime here. Folks argued about whether we should, why we should and anything else they could find related to Iraq.

World leaders, the media, protesters and many others talked about things like weapons of mass destruction, genocide, national defense and democracy in the Middle East.

I found the debate raging through my own head and the weeks leading up to the beginning of the conflict. I wondered why I individually and we as a nation were in Kuwait, preparing to take down a regime thousands of miles from our home shores.

But the conflict began, our military began the march north, and the debate took a back seat as I focused on the tasks at hand.



An Iraqi child waves to U.S. soldiers as a convoy from 4th Brigade moves through a town south of Baghdad.



Photos by Spc. Jacob Boyer

Iraqi civilians give the "thumbs up" sign as soldiers from 4th Brigade convoy through town.

By the time we arrived at Baghdad International Airport weeks ago, most of my doubts had been quieted, but not because I had forgotten them. Instead, I had found a reason to be here that dwarfed every concept discussed in the past year.

It's the people.

The poverty I see them living through when I drive past their farms and through their towns can't be done justice in words. It's masses of children lining the roads waving empty MRE bags, begging for more.

It's emaciated people and cows so thin you can see their ribs. It's people making do with cars that would have been in a junkyard years ago if they were in America.

Back home it's easy to forget that there are people in the world who actually live like this, whether they were born into desolation or under the boot of corrupt leadership.

And these people lived like this while their leader and his cronies hopped from one palace to another. As alien as the harsh conditions the average Iraqi lives under are to me, the opulent lifestyle

of Hussein and his inner circle are even farther from what I think of as reality.

That people could live like this while those they were responsible for suffered is the greatest injustice I have ever witnessed in my life. Forget about weapons. Forget about national defense. I've found my reason for being here.

It's the people.

It's hard to imagine 3-year-old children chilling cigarettes on the side of a dusty back road, but they wave blue packs of state-produced tobacco any time a HUMVEE is within view.

It's hard to imagine any person cheering as another nation's military rolls through his streets after vanquishing his nation's fighting forces, but here, as time passes, more and more appear genuinely happy to see us.

People can argue about the rights and wrongs of what the U.S. has done here all they want, and they probably will for a long time to come. But no matter what history decides, I will never have to wrestle with my conscience over why I'm here.

It's the people.

Weapons roundup:

1-3 ADA, Iraqi police confiscate illegal weapons

SPC. JACOB BOYER
3ID (M) PAO

A series of police raids backed by soldiers from 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment in Abu Gharyib have yielded several illegal weapons in the past week.

The raids are part of an overall effort to “restore security and peace to the local community,” said Lt. Col. Mark Garrell, commander, 1-3 ADA.

In one raid, the police confiscated a loaded pistol, several AK-47 magazines and an infrared scope, said Capt. Jeff Zanelotti, commander, B Battery, 1-3 ADA.

The operation started when B Battery set up roadblocks at both ends of the road that leads through the market, said Garrell, a Fayetteville, N.C., native. The purpose of the roadblocks was to stop any weapons from coming in to or going out of the market.

A group of about 30 soldiers and police officers led by Garrell patrolled from east to west through the market with an M2A3 Bradley in support.

As the soldiers neared western end of the



An Iraqi police officer shows off an infrared scope found during a sweep of a market in Abu Gharyib, southwest of Baghdad.

market, an unidentified Iraqi man near a tree at the western end of the market started running, and soldiers and police officers apprehended him. They confiscated a pistol from the man and found the other equipment at the stand he had set up.

“The innocent people stood still, and the guilty ran away,” said Zanelotti, a Long Island, N.Y., native. “We were lucky. It looks like it was a protection piece because there were no rounds chambered. It could have gone a lot worse.”

Zanelotti said several patrols have turned up weapons in the same area of the market.

“The area we raided has been a popular place for selling and trading arms,” he said. “We went in there three times yesterday and rounded up a couple of weapons.”

The raids resulted in the collection of several AK-47s, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and heavy machine guns, said Garrell.

The battalion is working in conjunction with the police to help restore order in the community, Garrell said. He told local officials he expects the police to do the work while his soldiers reinforce them.

“They’re taking the weapons, not us,” he said. “We provide assistance. There’s not a heavy arms presence here, but together we’ve made it even smaller. That’s a positive sign.”

The police need to do the majority of the work to restore respect for them in the people’s eyes, Garrell said.

“They’ve got duties and responsibilities as police officers,” he said. “We can’t do all the work for them, because we won’t always be here.”

Zanelotti said cooperation between the Americans and Iraqis has been improving steadily as the Iraqis come to understand what the soldiers are here for.



Photos by Spc. Jacob Boyer

Capt. Jeff Zanelotti, commander, B Btry., 1-3 ADA, clears a pistol confiscated from a weapons dealer at a market in Abu Gharyib Saturday. Patrols by U.S. soldiers and Iraqi police netted several weapons in an effort to re-establish order in the town.

“The problem is a difference in culture,” he said. “We both want safety, but they are used to being far more dependent and looking to others for decisions. But they’re beginning to understand that they need to make their own choices.”

The goal of the collaboration between the soldiers and police officers is to eventually turn all of the work over to the Iraqis, Garrell said.

“The biggest thing we want them to know is that we’re trying to help them,” he said. “We want to get the people back on their feet. That will allow us to step back, so eventually they’ll fully control their towns and villages. The sooner we can do that, the sooner (U.S. soldiers) can go home.”

Task Force Neighborhood a hit with locals

STAFF SGT. BRIAN SIPP
3ID (M) PAO

Amid the rumbling of heavy equipment and distinctive hum of power tools, civilians from the al-Noor neighborhood in northwest Baghdad gathered May 11 to work hand-in-hand with soldiers from 1st Battalion, 325th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division as well as engineers from the 130th Engineer Brigade on a variety of projects designed to help improve their neighborhood.

Task Force Neighborhood, a V Corps initiative, is designed to assess a neighborhood's needs to sustain itself in the future, bring in people and equipment or "key facilitators" to help solve problems, and execute one-day projects. These projects provide immediate results as well as follow-up feedback for future efforts, explained Maj. Paul Fellingner, chief of civil military operations in the 1-325 Inf.

"The civilians here have been very eager to help; they actually started cleaning up the area before we arrived," said Fellingner.

By assessing each neighborhood individually, the proper equipment can be used for the jobs that need to be accomplished.

"It allows us to tailor to their needs as we move from community to community," Fellingner added.

Located under an open-aired canopy in the corner of a large lot, local citizens waited their turn for a chance to be examined by Army dentists.

"We're pulling a lot of teeth," said Spc. Sheldon Watson, a dental assistant with 561st Medical Company (DS) from Vilseck, Germany. "We're seeing a lot of tooth decay and emergency type needs, that's what we're focusing on. We can normally help 25 to 30 people in a day."

In addition to medical care, the projects in motion ran the gamut from building picnic tables at an elementary school up the block, to installing soccer nets in a recreation area across from the school.

While the soccer nets looked conspicuously like Army camouflage screens, improvising to accomplish the mission is what makes Army engineers so special, according to Col. Greg Martin, commander of V Corp's 130th Engineer Brigade based in Germany. "If we can



Spc. Adam Nuelken

Capt. Yahya Radwan, a dentist for the 561st Medical Company, 30th Medical Brigade out of Vilseck, Germany, and San Jose, Calif. native, administers a shot of Novocaine to an Iraqi patient before pulling a decayed tooth. The dentists expected to see about 35 patients, treating most of them.

make it better for one child ... then it's more than worth it," he said, motioning to the crowd of children surrounding him. "Just look at these kids."

Future projects have highlighted the need for repair on the police station roof, grading and leveling out the soccer fieldplanting grass, and performing electrical and plumbing jobs in various buildings.

"Task Force Neighborhood's vision is to take Army forces and provide hope by jump starting initiatives like you see today. We want to enable a continued effort of rebuilding that will go on after we leave," Martin said.

"This place is an absolute engineers paradise," said Martin while suppressing a smile. "One of the greatest things about this job is that we were there from the 'tip of the spear' to help win the fight, now we're helping to win the peace ... one neighborhood at a time."

1st BCT Raiders pay Iraqi civil servants

SGT. CRAIG ZENTKOVICH
50th PAD

The 1st Brigade Combat Team is taking part in an ongoing effort to support civil servants in and around their sector in Baghdad.

The civil servant emergency payment program provides teachers and health care workers a payment of \$20 for their services to the community.

More than 39,000 Iraqis will have received this one-time payment by June within the sector.

At Wasy Hospital, Task Force 3-69 Armor's area of operation, 306 employees were paid in the last 48 hours, with more to come in the following days.

Additionally, \$25,000 of U.S. Army funds have been made available to the brigade for local projects.

These projects include restoration of a preschool, Al Kashafa Soccer Stadium renovation and Officer City public pool repair.

The names of those receiving the emergency payments will be submitted to the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance to be entered into a temporary salary system for further payments.



Cpl. Todd Pruden

Staff Sgt. Parren Flemming, a disbursing officer for the 208th Finance Battalion, counts money for administrators of the GEEP Middle Region Power Station.

3ID, V Corps delivers supplies to local hospitals

SGT. AKILAH C. CLARKE
3ID (M) PAO

As the tide of Operation Iraqi Freedom turns from combat to stability and support operations, soldiers who once manned the frontlines now find themselves providing a helping hand to those most affected by the war – the Iraqi people.

Soldiers from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) and the 30th Medical Brigade, V Corps, delivered supplies to a number of local Baghdad hospitals recently, to include the Baghdad Children's Hospital, and the Kasmir University Hospital.

Some of the hospitals were in worse conditions than others, according to Maj. John Balsler, assistant division surgeon, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech).

"The medical sections for the different BCTs went around and did initial assessments to see which hospitals were operational and to get a general idea as to what the conditions of those hospitals were," he explained.

Most of the hospitals were unaffected by the war, but some, such as the facility responsible for caring for Saddam Hussein's family, was bombed beyond repair.

"That hospital isn't very inhabitable anymore, so it was abandoned, but it still had some salvageable equipment," he said.

The donated supplies were provided by Ministry of Kuwait and

the government of Australia, and were separated and delivered according to the needs of the hospital, according to Balsler.

At Baghdad Children's Hospital, many of the items delivered consisted of a large number of pediatric supplies, to include baby food, oral rehydration fluids, diapers, intravenous supplies and various pediatric medicines.

In addition to receiving supplies and medicines, the staff at Kasmir University Hospital received a visit from the 3ID commanding general, Maj. Gen. Buford Blount. After a short tour of the hospital, Blount sat down to talk with one of the staff members, Dr. Issim Khuleif.

Although the hospital did not suffer any damage during the war, it was still in dire need of water, medicine and other supplies, Khuleif said. Blount assured the Khuleif and the hospital staff that the military would play a significant role in assisting the facility and those like it.

Overall, the Iraqi people are very grateful for the assistance they are receiving, Balsler said.

"What I've found so far is that these people are extremely receptive to what we're doing. We haven't seen any hostilities towards Americans in these areas. They're very generous people and

they're very appreciative of what we're doing," he said. "We saw a lot of suffering in the past during Desert Storm, and we don't want to see that again. So by getting these supplies to the hospitals, we hope to help out as much as we can."



Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke

Assistant Division Surgeon Maj. John Balsler, right, helps unload a truckful of medical supplies being delivered to the Baghdad Children's Hospital.

Tusker soldiers take care of tykes

SPC. MASON T. LOWERY
50th PAD

Tusker soldiers brought paint, cleaning supplies and happiness to Baghdad orphans May 4 as part of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) effort to help put the city back together.

The orphanage is in the A Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor soldiers' area of operation, and they are taking the time to help the children as much as they can by cleaning up unexploded ordnance and trash, painting playground equipment, and providing security.

The children's eyes lit up when they saw the soldiers. They knew enough English to say, "Thank you," and "I love you." They

crowded around the soldiers; some shaking their hands while others just stared in awe.

It was probably one of the first times the neighboring children with parents envied the orphans, as they climbed on the gates and tried to sneak in to receive some of the soldiers' attention.

The soldiers got as much out of it as the orphans did.

They played with the children as much as, if not more than, they worked, which was just as important. "All the kids embrace us. They say 'Good Mister! Good Mister!' Seeing these kids is like seeing my own," said Sgt. Edwin Leon from Coamo, Puerto Rico.

While the soldiers were cleaning and play-

ing with the children, their commander, Capt. Phil Wolford from Marysville, Ohio, met with the Childhood Orphanage manager Bayan Hasan Ali.

Ali stays with the 50 children at night, so the Tuskers protection helps guard against looters, she said.

The children had plenty of food, provided by the Islamic Relief Agency, but they needed electricity, and protection is the most important thing, Ali said.

Wolford told her the patrols would continue and a generator had been located and would be delivered as soon as it was repaired. She thanked Wolford and said she appreciates the soldiers' protection.

Baghdad post office opens for business

SPC. ADAM NUELKEN
3ID (M) PAO

The Alkahdmia Post Office in Baghdad reopened recently in a ribbon cutting ceremony that also symbolized the reopening of mail services across Iraq.

The opening of the post office is a large step for the Iraqi people because with downed phone lines and limited Internet access, it gives them a way to communicate across and outside Iraq.

"It's a very important step for the Iraqi people to communicate with the outside world," said Sgt. 1st Class Kent Chacoski, a platoon sergeant with 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion. Chacoski, a Jamestown, NC native, was in charge of returning the post office to working order.

In order to rejuvenate the postal services in Iraq, all 1809 Baghdad employees were paid \$20, and the civil affairs office has provided additional financing until the postal service becomes self-sufficient.

"They're going into a new era where there is no competition with the Internet, so they are going to make money," Chacoski said.

Even before Alkahdmia Post Office opened its doors, local Iraqis were lining up to try and mail packages and letters.

An initial problem was faced by the destruction of some of Baghdad's post offices. Many of the offices were in the same build-



Spc. Adam Nuelken

Kalid Al-Aziew, Iraq's Postmaster General, and Sgt. 1st Class Kent Chacoski, a platoon sergeant with the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, cut a ribbon signifying the reopening of the Alkahdmia Post Office.

ings as telecommunications offices and were destroyed during coalition bombings.

"When the telecommunications got hit, (some offices were destroyed)," Chacoski

said. "The (post offices) have moved to smaller, temporary locations."

Of the 69 post offices in Baghdad, 44 remain ready to serve, according to Chacoski.

With the destroyed and consolidated post offices, the civil affairs unit and Iraqi postal service has worked to reopen branches and keep employees.

"There are more workers, but they are moving to other locations to consolidate — we are going to keep all the workers," he said.

The reopening of the post offices isn't only important for sending out letters and parcels. The offices also provided the welfare money for Iraqi citizens.

"We give the money for the Ministry of Finance for the sick and elderly," said Ghazi Subhe, 46, postmaster at Alkahdmia Post Office. "Those who can't walk to the Ministry come here."

The reopening of the Alkahdmia Post Office is symbolic because it was the first post office to open in Baghdad.

"This post office opened in Baghdad in 1922," Subhe said.

U.S. forces are continuing daily to help revitalize Iraq and rebuild its infrastructure. Subhe said many Iraqis are appreciative of what the U.S. military is doing to help rebuild Iraq. "If the American forces have any ideas of development, (we ask that they) help us do it," he said.

Engineers turning Iraq back on

SPC. MASON T. LOWERY
50th PAD

Army engineers and the Office for Reconstruction and Humanitarian Aid are in Baghdad working with Iraqis to get power output back to pre-war levels.

Baghdad citizens need to understand they won't have as much power as last summer because the U.S. and the new Iraqi government won't draw power from surrounding cities, which cripples those cities and their populations, as Saddam Hussein's regime did for his numerous palaces, according to Maj. Clinton Pendergast, Engineer Brigade S-3 from Plainview, Neb.

Current load sharing (supplying power to one area while shutting off another's) is two hours on and four hours off. Army engineers' goal once the power plants improve is three hours on and three hours off, according to Capt. Ben Kuykendall, Task Force Fajr (First Light) electricity commission action officer from Plains, Mt. Power deficits are nothing new for residents of Baghdad — they've dealt with them for decades as the personal generators throughout the city indicate.

Iraq has more than enough natural resources to power itself au-

tonomously in the long run, but because the plants' equipment is old, worn out and comes from many different countries, the short run goals will still leave Baghdad with power shortages, explained Kuykendall.

As of May 12, all Baghdad's power plants were operational but not putting out their full potential. The plants produced 600 megawatts of electricity during peak hours. It would have taken 1500 megawatts to power the city's hospitals, sewer and water plants, and civilians' homes during that time, not including industry or palaces, Kuykendall said.

Two factors will increase the demand for power as the temperature rises — air conditioning and television. Army engineers predict Baghdad's power plants will produce 1,000 megawatts of power by June 1, but the power needed during peak hours will have increased beyond 1,500, Kuykendall said.

Other factors affecting Baghdad's power are organized gangs threatening, car jacking and killing plant employees; plant employees' not being paid; the difficulty finding parts for obsolete and multinational equipment; and the lack of funding for repairs to power plants for most of the last decade, according to James Lanier, Agency for National Development power engineer.

Civil Affairs pays Iraqi gov't employees

SPC. ADAM NUELKEN
3ID (M) PAO

For weeks, Civil Affairs units have been paying Iraqis to return to their work places and for lost wages due to the war.

Recently, members of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion visited the Iraqi Ministry of Information to pay about \$64,000 to its employees.

Paying employees of the various government agencies is important to rebuilding the Iraqi economy because it gets people to return to work and puts money back into circulation, according to Maj. Eric Murray, direct support civil affairs team chief.

Many of the local people who have received pay checks work for the schools, ministries, public works and civil defense in an effort to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure.

"Anywhere you go in Iraq, they take both U.S. dollars and Iraqi dinar, so spending it doesn't seem to be a problem," explained Capt. Jeffrey Maglio, a civil military operations officer for the battalion.

The civil affairs battalion, working with the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) and the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance have also paid out emergency funds to different employees because they had not received pay since before the war.

The \$20 emergency pay equaled the monthly salary for most of the employees. A policeman would make 27,000 Iraqi dinar a month, about \$13.50 at the exchange rate when U.S. forces took control of Baghdad. "People made \$10-\$20 a month," Maglio said.

Many doctors and teachers told of how they had to take second jobs, to include driving taxis, to make ends meet.



Spc. Adam Nuelken

Sgt. 1st Class Pedro Collado, detachment sergeant for the 208th Finance Battalion, counts out money being given to the Ministry of Education while contracted translator, Brian Metri, works with paymaster, Khudair Dhubiya, on details of the pay day.

Now, the civil affairs team with 3rd Brigade Combat Team has between \$30,000 to \$60,000 worth of nominations for projects to continue the rebuilding of Baghdad.

In total, the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.), with assistance from ORHA and civil affairs teams has paid out more than \$8 million to emergency payments and projects.

Recovering the history of mankind

SGT. MARK S. RICKERT
372nd MPAD

A white, dusty truck heads toward the Iran border, its wheels kicking up clouds of hot sand. When members of the Free Iraqi Forces patrolling the area see the truck, they pull it over for a routine check.

While one man questions the driver, a soldier sees an aluminum box in the bed of the truck. When questioned, the driver says the box contains only personal items.

They pry open the box and find a treasure of ancient parchment scrolls, statuettes and priceless antiquities—items stolen from the Baghdad Museum.

Members of Joint International Agency Cardinal Group came to Baghdad on April 22 to investigate and retrieve stolen artifacts from the Baghdad Museum.

The museum's collection consists of 170,000 pieces; some pieces date back 7,000 years, according to Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Roberto Pineiro, with the 156 Airlift Wing, Puerto Rico Air National Guard, who is also a member of JIACG.

War has been harsh to the museum Pineiro

said. Looters took nearly 2,000 pieces during the first Gulf War, and because the U.S. did not restore Baghdad at that time, the pieces were never recovered.

This time, however, JIACG is on the scene, and the team is slowly retrieving the pieces.

JIACG is a group of military/government agencies formed by the U.S. after Sept. 11, 2001. The team coordinates intelligence and counter terrorist intelligence between agencies such as the FBI, CIA, and U.S. Customs.

"We're here because this is a crime scene," said Pineiro. "This is a slice of ancient history and the beginning of civilization," said Pineiro.

Already, the team has been at the museum for 14 days, and they have many hurdles to cross. Presently, JIACG doesn't know which things were stolen, and which things were simply stored away. In addition, Iraqis stored some of the items in different shelters and bank vaults prior to the war.

"The museum curator gave us inventory sheets of what the museum owns," said Pineiro. "So now, we're trying to determine what is here, what was here, and then (deter-

mine) what is missing. As of now, JIACG has a list of 38 items known to be missing."

During the recent war, the Republican Guard used the museum as a fighting position, and this continues to pose a problem for JIACG, says Pineiro. Just recently, they found grenades, ammo boxes, and pins for RPGs in a room on the second floor.

"The Republican Guard used this place as a fighting point, against the rules outlined by the Geneva Convention," said Pineiro. "This slows our progress because we don't know what's in some of the rooms. We have to take our time and make sure the museum is safe."

Fortunately, some of the artifacts have been returned, while other artifacts were recovered from the black market. Even the Iraqi mosques are involved in recovering missing treasures.

"Someone turned in an artifact to one of the mosques here, and the mosque brought it back to us yesterday," said Pineiro. "These things were not just stolen from Iraq," said Pineiro. "They were stolen from mankind. It is the history of us all."

Repair, reopen, adopt

U.S. military lends helping



Cpl. Todd Pruden

1st Lt. Eric Carrano, executive officer, 380th Expeditionary Wing, carries school supplies purchased with donations from airmen of the 380th into a school in Baghdad, Iraq.

CPL. TODD PRUDEN 372nd MPAD

U.S. Air Force officers and enlisted personnel with the 380th Expeditionary Wing visited two local schools here May 22 to deliver school supplies purchased with donations from airmen of the 380th.

Supplies including desktop computers, printers, soccer balls, writing tablets, pens, pencils, crayons and candy were purchased with donations totaling \$7,500 raised by the 380th's Company Grade Officers' Group.

"We hope for a better opportunity for the children to learn," said Col. Scott Harrison, vice commander, 380th. "We want to show them the American people love the Iraqi people."

Harrison hopes to make the project, known as "Win the Peace", a continuous effort. Chaplain (Capt.) John Sackett, Protestant chaplain for the 380th, said he hopes other units and organizations across the U.S. will join the effort.

"We're hoping to be a pilot launch and hope other organizations get involved," Sackett said. "It's an honor to be a part of this."

While the children had no idea as to what was happening, the teachers and administrators were very pleased with the supplies.

"All we want is friendship and peace," said an Iraqi school administrator through an interpreter. "Thank you so much for the salvation."

"Today was a great day," said 1st Lt. Eric Carrano, executive officer of the 380th. "This was the first stepping stone in investing in (the children's) future. We just want to help as much as we can." "The kids are fantastic and they are the future of Iraq," Sackett said. Plaques were also presented to the schools. The inscription said, "We hope for many years of friendship" in both Arabic and English.

SPC. MASON T. LOWERY 50th PAD

Soldiers with the 439th Engineer Battalion from Bismarck, N.C., have been making repairs to the war-torn Al Mustafa Girls School in West Baghdad for the past week.

While the soldiers' intentions are pure – they just want to rebuild the school, anti-American graffiti litters the walls in and outside the school, indications of the threat that still exists for American soldiers in Iraq.

"We do anything to make the school a better place for the students," said Capt. Aaron McPherson with the 439th, from Tavares, Fla. "The first thing we do is paint over propaganda ... anything the former regime said

about how bad we are."

While the engineers determine the work that needs to be done on the school, soldiers with 82nd Airborne Division and the 75th Exploitation Task Force are guarding the school against looters and rapists, according to Pfc. Isaac Neibert, an 82nd soldier from Fort Bragg, N.C.

"I'm going to do all I can to make sure that (rape and looting) doesn't happen again. It feels good knowing we can help," he said.

Al Mustafa head mistress Jameela Abdul Ameer complained about the looting, and about how long it is taking to get power turned back on, but said she appreciates soldiers' help.

The girls, like all children in Baghdad, are fascinated with the soldiers, yet less bold.

Meanwhile, the engineers do their work. They assess what the school needs, and Iraqi contractors do the work. They're about 50 percent finished replacing windows, painting walls and getting electricity and water turned back on.

Haney Paul, the Iraqi contractor in charge of the repairs, appreciates the Army's help. "They came here and they told me what needed to be fixed. They were so nice and cooperated well. Thank you for saving the Iraqi people. Thank you for all this work on the school. When Saddam was here, everything was for him."

g hand to Iraqi schools

SPC. KATHERINE ROBINSON
50th PAD

Soldiers with the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, out of Greensboro, N.C., delivered school supplies and candy to the students of Al Baroodi school in the village of Al Janabi May 5.

The school reopened May 3, for the first time since the beginning of the war, according to Maj. Brent Perley, a CA team leader from Kernersville, N.C. It was one of several schools that reopened following a meeting in Baghdad between coalition forces and the Iraqi Ministry of Education.

The meeting determined that any schools that were ready should resume sessions, and the coalition put out a radio message instructing children to attend, Perley said.

Civil Affairs soldiers visited the school May 3 to assess security, make sure the facility was not damaged by combat, and assess availability of school supplies, he added. They also made wooden signs and posted them next to the road, warning motorists of the presence of a school in the vicinity.

About 100 of the school's 300 students attended the first morning, and by the second day, the number had climbed to 200, Perley explained.

Children of all ages greeted the soldiers at the school. Many of the children recited



Photos by Spc. Katherine Robinson

Maj. Paulus van Breemen, a 422nd CA Bn. linguist officer from Salem, Ore., shakes hands with a group of students at the newly opened Al Baroodi school during a visit. The battalion delivered school supplies and candy to the school.

parts of the Koran in front of their classes, and welcomed the soldiers in Arabic. They sat quietly in their classrooms with their arms crossed, boys on one side, girls on the other, until their teachers entered with the soldiers.

But when groups of teachers and soldiers left, young faces and hands filled the classroom windows, waving and smiling.

Hakim Kawy, a member of the Free Iraqi Forces attached to the 422nd as an interpreter, greeted the children and helped bridge the language gap between child and soldier.

Soldiers from the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and Division Support Command, who came along to meet the children, handed out candy and snacks.

"That was such a

great experience," said Capt. Stacy Taylor, the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) subsistence officer. "They were the most well-behaved children," she said. "They didn't seem timid or anything."

"There are a lot of things where you know you're making an impact ... large infrastructure type of things," said Maj. Paulus van Breemen, a 422nd linguist officer from Salem Ore. "You know people are grateful, but when you go visit kids, you get instant gratification."

For Kawy, the reopening of the school in post-war Iraq was a herald of brighter days to come. Kawy fled from Iraq 26 years ago and now resides in San Diego. He is back to fight for his country again, to help rebuild it, and said he loves to be able to help and serve the children and the people.

"The first time I saw (the children) ... I went silent ... the emotions were so strong ... I cannot describe it," he said. "I picture them in the future, free and democratic ... where no child like them (will have to) live through such horrible experiences and such oppression ... I owe this to the American people."



Maj. Jamie Eaker, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) deputy SJA, from Titusville, Fla., hands out cookies to students.

3rd ID soldiers patrol streets of Baghdad

CPL. TODD PRUDEN
372nd MPAD

Keeping the streets of Baghdad free of crime and safe for the residents of the city is a task that has fallen into the laps of coalition forces after the fall of the last regime.

Members of 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) out of Fort Stewart, Ga., have now been tasked to instill law and order since the end of the war. They patrol the streets of Baghdad and guard buildings from further looting.

According to 1st Lt. Jason Redmon, a platoon leader for A Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor, the buildings that are priority for these soldiers to guard are schools, banks, mosques and government facilities.

"We are in charge of securing buildings and making sure no looters take anything from these buildings," said Redmon.

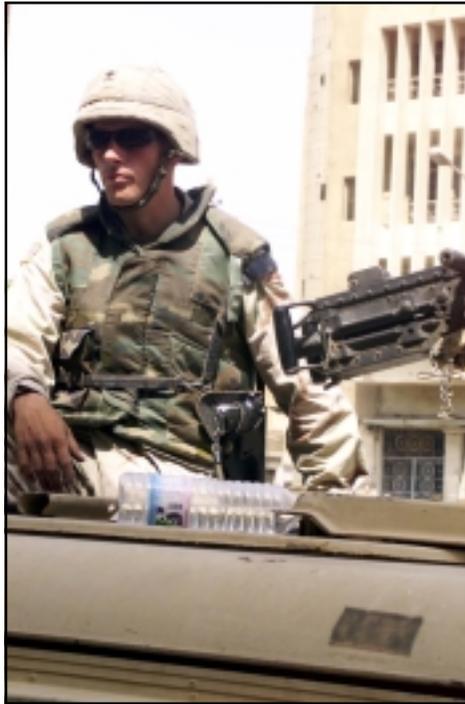
Every day seems to be a constant battle against looters for these soldiers. Many times the soldiers catch the same culprits in the act over and over again.

"They take anything that has value," said Sgt. 1st Class Rogelio Gonzalez, a platoon sergeant with A Co. 4th Bn., 64th AR. "Our mission is to make sure the looters don't walk away with anything."

According to Sgt. Dwayne Asrat, an armor crewman with A Co. 4th Bn., 64th AR, the looters will walk away with about anything they can get their hands on.

"They take the toilet bowls, the sink, even the wires from the walls," Asrat said.

But the job of containing the looting can



Cpl. Todd Pruden

Spc. Jason Blersch, a tank driver with A Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., stands guard in front of the Rasheed Bank in Baghdad, Iraq.

be a dangerous one. Many suspected looters carry what can turn out to be lethal weapons.

"They mostly run around with AK-47 bayonets," Asrat said.

With the economy in Iraq in shambles, looting is a common problem to deal with. Many of the people have not been able to return to work to earn a paycheck.

"Everybody's poor," said Pfc. Michael Ruzbarsky, a tank driver with A Co., 4th Bn., 64th AR.

That said, a number of people have become homeless since the end of the war. Many people are taking up residence in former Iraqi army billeting and anywhere they can occupy that is not one of the safeguarded buildings the U.S. military is trying to protect.

Out on patrol with A Co., 4th Bn., 64th AR, many families were seen occupying these dwellings and asking if it was all right to stay there.

No one seemed to mind as long as there was no evidence of looting. Looters who are caught are searched for weapons and released, unless an arrest is merited. They are told to leave the area. But all the soldiers know that the looters will return again and attempt the same deed.

Most soldiers would agree the city would be in chaos without their presence.

"I think this place would be a disaster. There are too many people helping themselves to what is not theirs. There are still looters and others taking advantage of the less fortunate," said Gonzalez.

"This city would be in a world of hurt," said Spc. Jason Blersch, a tank driver with A Co., 4th Bn., 64th AR.

The soldiers agreed that the locals appreciate their presence.

"They are glad to have us here. We make them feel safe," Asrat said.

Baghdad firefighters receive emergency pay

SPC. CHAD D. WILKERSON
372nd MPAD

A \$20 emergency payment was given out to 872 Baghdad city firefighters on May 8 by soldiers from the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion. The emergency payment program was implemented by the Office of Reconstruction, Humanitarian Assistance in an effort to show good faith to workers in the infrastructure of Baghdad. The city workers had not received a paycheck for the past two months as a result of the conflict.

More than half of the fire department/ civil defense employees stayed on the job during hostilities, said Maj. Brent P. Gerald, executive officer for the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion. Many more who had left, have since returned, ready to go to work rebuilding their city.

Gerald hopes that the emergency payments will go a long way to give the Baghdad economy a jumpstart and help the Iraqi people get back on their feet.

"This is to help to get the infrastructure of Baghdad built back up, so they can take over and start functioning as a city again," Gerald said.

Gerald was also impressed with the dedication and integrity that exist wherever you find civil servants, whether in Iraq or America.

"I'm glad to see the professionalism of the firefighters just as it is in the United States," Gerald said. "It is good to see that this transcends across the world."

"They didn't leave their stations, they stayed and resisted during the war," said Col. Laith Yas Awbas, chief officer of west side civil defense. They resisted in their places and kept working."

The role of both U.S. Army civil affairs and Iraqi civil defense are vital to the future of Iraq and the well being of its people. The U.S. Army has promised the Baghdad firefighters that there is more to come; salaries are on their way, and things are going to be better than before, said Awbas.

Iraqi town gets curfew, gun laws

SPC. DEREK DEXTER
350th MPAD

Enacting curfews and mandating gun permits are ways soldiers from Fort Hood, Texas, are hoping to protect Iraq's law-abiding citizens.

Task Force Ironhorse commander Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno and Col. Dennis Rogers, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander, recently met with local sheiks in the city of Ba'qubah to discuss the future of the city and surrounding countryside.

Speaking with the aid of an interpreter, Odierno and Rogers released a statement saying they would like to have a committee of 10 local sheiks, nominated by their peers, to be the direct line of communication with Rogers.

The curfew, which would run from 11 p.m. through 4 a.m. is to keep people who would do wrong away from those who want to obey the laws, Odierno said.

In addition, civilians will be required to obtain a permit to carry firearms in the Ba'qubah area.

Rogers established the policy and he and his staff will issue the permits. Anyone carrying a weapon without a permit will be detained and the weapon confiscated.



Spc. Derek Dexter

Sheiks in the Ba'qubah area express the concerns of the local population during a meeting with Maj. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division, and Col. Dennis Rogers, commander of Second Brigade, 4th I.D.

The sheiks were given an opportunity to ask questions. Many expressed concerns about the re-creation of the police force and concern about families earning an income. One sheik said his tribe had 14-year-old boys working all day to try to support their families instead of attending school.

It's going to take a while," Odierno said.

"They were under the old regime for a long time." But, he added, the new government being set up between the coalition and the local sheiks will be a much better process.

Part of setting up that new government will include establishing a committee of 10 local sheiks, to be nominated by their peers, to be the direct line of communication with Rogers.

Raiders continue improvements in Baghdad

SGT. CRAIG ZENTKOVICH
50th PAD

The 1st Brigade Combat Team continued its stabilization operations in Baghdad May 21 with assessments of medical facilities and schools, supply distribution, and as trash clean up in their zone.

The battalion surgeon for 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, spoke with the chief operator and physician at Al Khayal Hospital to address the concerns of the only hospital in Baghdad that specializes in kidney transplants. Task Force 3-69 purchased and distributed school supplies to the schools in their sector.

Additionally, they continue to assess the damage at a preschool and are determining what repairs are needed – a project due to begin within weeks.

Task Force 2-7 spearheaded a cleanup effort in which trash was collected from the streets and neighborhoods in their zone and hauled away. Improvements to the 1st BCT zone will continue in the upcoming weeks with the repair and renovation of many schools, a soccer stadium and a city pool.

Additionally, the soldiers have worked with the Iraqis to improve safety, security, and living and working conditions in the 1st Brigade Combat Team's area of operation in Baghdad this week.

An increase in nighttime presence patrols, raids and traffic control points established on main thoroughfares, have contributed to a dramatic decrease in curfew and weapons violations, as well as street



Spc. Adam Nuelken

Sgt. Bill Manikowski, combat engineer for B Company, 142 Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Heavy) helps local Iraqi's fill in a hole and grate the ground.

and organized crime. Overnight, there were 41 curfew violators; as opposed to the 316 the 1st BCT detained May 18.

A team from TF 3-2, TF 2-7's replacement in zone, visited the Al-Kindy Hospital to evaluate conditions. Although the hospital has been operating on 75-percent power, numbers of patients treated have returned to pre-war levels.

1st BCT helps to curb lawlessness

SGT. CRAIG ZENTKOVICH
50th PAD

The 1st Brigade Combat Team has detained 366 Iraqis in their area of operation since May 17.

The detainees were apprehended for infractions which include curfew violation, theft and opening fire on U.S. troops. Curfew violators are released at first light, minus the weapons that were confiscated from them upon their apprehension.

In the early hours of the morning, TF 2-7 detained 239 curfew violators during their night time presence patrols, many in possession of AK-47 rifles and 9mm pistols.

Additionally, five of the detainees taken into custody by Task Force 3-69 were found to be in possession of 1.8 million dinar (\$240,000) and weapons while they were investigating two dead bodies in the area.

1st BCT conducts upwards of 90 presence patrols daily in their zone. In other attempts to stifle crime in their area of operations, Task Forces 2-7 and 1-41 conducted raids at separate locations May 19 and early Saturday morning in Baghdad to curb criminal activities in their sectors.

TF 2-7 conducted a raid recently on a car chop shop following reports of many stolen vehicles being housed there. Two soldiers and a reporter sustained minor injuries, were treated on site and released. An AK-47 rifle and many car parts were recovered.

Additionally, TF 1-41 conducted a raid on houses of suspected Saddam Fedayeen militants. Eight men were apprehended and various small arms, ammunition, explosives and money were found on site. Units of the 1st BCT have been conducting nightly raids in an effort to thwart crime in the region.



Sgt. Mark Bell

Spc. Joshua Crawford, 21, from Alton, Ill, a member of the 233rd Military Police Company, Springfield, Ill, Illinois Army National Guard, stands guard during a recent shift in Baghdad.

Hammer Brigade spreads the news

SPC. ADAM NUELKEN
3ID (M) PAO

Keeping the Iraqi public informed isn't always an easy task with loud speakers, fliers and word of mouth, so the 3rd Brigade Combat Team has taken an extra step and began publishing a newsletter to let the Iraqis know what they are doing.

The newsletter is to tell the Iraqis what the brigade as well as how the Iraqis are helping the brigade rebuild Baghdad's infrastructure.

"It's basically a community service newsletter," Capt. Matt Rawlins, 3rd Brigade Combat Team's assistant adjutant. "It allows the Brigade to put out relevant information to the local population in the brigade sector about improvements we're making on public services, such as power and water services, re-opening schools and establishing a police force."

The five-page newsletter cost the Sledgehammer Brigade \$200 to have translated and

get 1,200 copies printed by a local printer.

The "Northwest Baghdad News" allows the brigade to communicate directly with the people, letting them know how the brigade is helping them and how they can help themselves.

"The most important aspect of the newsletter is we are not taking the approach of we are doing all of this for them. We are encouraging them to come forward to help us help their neighbors," Rawlins, a Lansing, Mi. native, added. "Right now there is limited radio and TV news for them, and this newsletter will allow us to speak directly to them by handing it out and posting it in public places."

A major purpose for the newsletter is to give out safety messages as well.

"We're giving them information on how to mark and report unexploded ordnance," Rawlins said. "We're informing them not to gather in large crowds around U.S. soldiers because the enemy has been known to use

crowds as cover to attack American soldiers. We're also informing them to stop their children from running out into traffic because it's dangerous for both the children and the soldiers driving."

The newsletter also tells the Iraqi public what the brigades intentions are, combating any anti-American propaganda quickly.

"We hope the public gains the awareness that the 3rd Brigade and all the U.S. forces are here to help them, and this newsletter will keep them informed and hopefully prevent rumors and unfounded speculation on our intentions toward them," he said.

The brigade has printed one copy of the newsletter, but once the brigade is relieved, the hope is the follow-on unit will continue to publish a newsletter for the people of Iraq.

"We hope to do a good battle hand over with our follow-on unit," Rawlins said. "It's up to their Brigade commander, but we will tell them we are doing this, and if they want, we will offer to help them."

GLOBAL NEWS

Terror alert in U.S. raised to 'High'

JOHN J. LUMPKIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – The Bush administration, concerned that a wave of attacks overseas could spread to the United States, raised the terrorism alert level to orange May 20 and called for increased security nationwide.

Authorities described the intelligence pointing to a domestic attack as general in nature, with nothing credible suggesting a time, location, method or target. They pointed to last week's bombings in Saudi Arabia and Morocco as part of a coordinated series that could spread.

"The U.S. intelligence community believes that al-Qaida has entered an operational period worldwide, and this may include attacks in the United States," Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said.

Ridge warned of attacks similar to those in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where gunmen fought with guards before suicide bombers detonated truck bombs at several lightly defended residential complexes.

State and local authorities began reacting after Tuesday's announcement. Police in California began working 12-hour shifts. National Guard troops in New York were called up to protect subways and bridges. In Washington, the Capitol police SWAT team prepared to conduct random patrols.

The decision to raise the national alert to orange, signifying a "high" risk of attacks, from yellow, meaning an "elevated" risk, came after a review of intelligence information by President Bush homeland security council Tuesday, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. Orange is the second-highest on the five-color alert scale.

Federal law-enforcement officials said that among the intelligence



AP

A member of the Uniformed Division of the Secret Service stands watch at the rear of the White House Tuesday. The Bush administration raised the national terror alert level to orange on Tuesday amid fears that a wave of attacks overseas would spread to the United States .

picked up recently were two electronic transmissions that discussed the possibility of an attack on New York, Washington, Boston and more broadly the U.S. coastlines. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there were doubts about the credibility of the threats and stressed that they were not the driving factors in the decision to raise the threat level.

Gen. Franks to retire this summer

DAVE MONIZ
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Army Gen. Tommy Franks, who led U.S. forces to decisive military victories in Afghanistan and Iraq, will leave his job as head of U.S. Central Command this summer, senior Pentagon officials said Thursday.

Franks' decision to retire and end a 36-year military career was no surprise at the Pentagon, where Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had tried to lure him back to Washington to be the Army's chief of staff. Franks recently turned down the chance to succeed Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki, who will retire in June.

Defense sources said the front-runner to replace Franks is Army Lt. Gen. John Abizaid, an Arab-American who is a Rumsfeld favorite and is viewed by many in the Pentagon as



Gen. Tommy Franks

an uncommonly intelligent and skilled leader.

Abizaid, Franks' deputy, is also a candidate to succeed Shinseki. But many Pentagon insiders consider

him most valuable at Central Command, U.S. military headquarters for an area that stretches from the Arabian Peninsula to Afghanistan.

Earlier this month, Rumsfeld lauded Franks' leadership during the war in Iraq, which was won in roughly half the time and with about half the casualties of the 1991 Persian Gulf War. In what for him was a rare

moment of praise for subordinates, Rumsfeld said Franks "fashioned a brilliant plan."

"All of the things that could have gone wrong, for the most part, did not. Tommy Franks is truly an outstanding military officer," Rumsfeld said.

Whoever succeeds Franks will face the challenge of keeping the peace in Afghanistan and Iraq, where remnants of al-Qaeda and other extremist groups seek to destabilize the new leadership. The region remains a hotbed of terrorist activity and poses security challenges for U.S. troops.

Franks' tenure at Central Command coincided with the United States' most dramatic and important military engagements since the Gulf War. The Texas native was viewed as a steady if conventional military thinker whose cautious nature served as a counterpoint to Rumsfeld's penchant for bold operations.

U.S. official meets Northern Iraq council

LOIUS MEXLER
Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — Touring the country he has been entrusted to reconstruct, the top American civilian official met Sunday with a city council billed as postwar Iraq's first elected body and called it a "great example of embryonic democracy."

L. Paul Bremer, Iraq's civilian administrator said the United States remained committed to establishing an interim national government without delay.

"We are intent on moving as quickly as possible," Bremer said.

The trip to northern Iraq was Bremer's first official visit outside Baghdad since the State Department's former head of counterterrorism arrived in the country almost a week ago to lead the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance.

His visit to Mosul was received with bewilderment and curiosity — and at least one kiss on the cheek. Bremer met privately with the 32-member council in a former municipal building in the center of Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city. A soldier from the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division stood guard at the door with an assault rifle and attached grenade launcher. The council, chosen May 5 by 230 electors from Mosul's main families and ethnic groups and endorsed by the U.S. military, has already moved to purge Saddam Hussein's Baath Party loyalists from top public positions in the city.

"It is great to see what the Iraqi people can do by themselves once they're released from the tyranny they've suffered from for the last 30 years," Bremer said.

As he met with the council, former Iraqi military officers stood outside the building demanding jobs in a new army. Farmers in traditional Arab robes and headdresses protested as part of a dispute be-

tween local Arabs and Kurds over land ownership.

"I think the Americans are working very hard, but they are working very slow," said Hunaim Ilqaddo, a business professor and member of the council. "They made some mistakes."

Bremer did not comment directly on the protest itself, but he welcomed the fact that such public grievances are now possible.

He said his administration's top priorities were to improve security and to restore basic services like gasoline and electricity, acknowledging it was a difficult task.

At the same time, Bremer echoed his superiors in the Bush administration, saying the U.N. Security Council must lift its sanctions on Iraq when it meets this week. One council member, Maj. Gen. Salim Haj Isa, said he was encouraged by Bremer's visit.

"We expect a lot from him," Isa said.

"We hope he will bring solu-

tions to the many problems here."

After the council meeting, Maj. Gen. David L. Petraeus, commander of the 101st, took Bremer on a walking tour of the city. The two made for a dramatic illustration of the companion U.S. civilian and military presences in Iraq — Bremer in blue jacket and tie, Petraeus in desert camouflage, helmet and flak jacket.

The two visited the charred interior of a courthouse burned by looters after Saddam fell. Bremer shook hands as he walked down a crowded street, stopping by a shop selling traditional Arab sweets to shake hands with the owner. U.S. Army helicopters flew overhead, armed with machine guns and rocket launch pods, during the tour.

The men also stopped by Sami Isa Hasan's small computer shop. "Is business OK today?" Petraeus asked. "Zero," Hasan replied drawing a flat line with his hand. "OK," Petraeus replied, "we're going to get it going."



L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. civil administrator in Iraq, looks at a Baghdad city map at the 3rd Brigade headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, May 17 during a meeting with Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount, commander of the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division, center, and Col. Dann Allyn, commander of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, right.

U.S.: No negotiations on Saddam's son

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — American military commanders are making it clear that the Bush administration will accept nothing less than unconditional surrender from Saddam Hussein's eldest son — and, by implication, his top advisers and Baath Party members still hiding in Iraq.

The commander of U.S. ground forces in Iraq, responding to a report that Odai Hussein

might be seeking to surrender, said Friday he knew of no negotiations being held with envoys of Saddam's eldest son, and he insisted the U.S. military isn't seeking to cut any deals.

"Nobody's brought an offer from Odai to me, and I would facilitate his coming on in. But it would be unconditional," Lt. Gen. David McKiernan said at a security briefing in Baghdad.

"There are no negotiations," he said.

"There is a lot of intel, there's a lot of reports that we follow up on — on locations — but there are no negotiations going on. Nor would there be."

McKiernan's comments came in response to a report Friday in *The Wall Street Journal*, which said Odai was considering surrendering to American forces. The newspaper cited "a third party with knowledge of the discussions."

Taiwan sees record SARS rise

ANGUS CHUANG

Reuters

TAIPEI – Taiwan saw another record rise in its number of new SARS cases Sunday as the pneumonia-like virus spread to an offshore island and two more hospitals had to be closed.

The president of China, where Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome first appeared late last year, vowed to work with the world to halt the spread of the virus as Chinese authorities reported the lowest number of SARS deaths in a 24-hour period in a month.

But there was bitter disappointment in Singapore which reported its first new case in 19 days, just as it was hoping to be declared free of SARS by the World Health Organization.

Taiwan, with the world's third-highest number of SARS deaths and infections after mainland China and Hong Kong, said the outlying Penghu islands had reported their first cases, stark evidence the virus was spreading.

A hospital on the Penghu islands, about 40 km (25 miles) west of Taiwan, was shut and more than 100 staff and patients were put in quarantine after a man and his wife, who visited a SARS-hit hospital on the main island, were found to have caught the virus.

"We only have two major hospitals. If what happened in Taiwan happens here, I don't know what we can do," said Penghu island resident Irene Kao.

On the main island, another hospital was closed, taking to four the number of hospitals there that have been shut or partially shut since the outbreak began.

Taiwan reported five more deaths and 36 new infections, its biggest one-day jump in new cases. Its death toll is 40 and its number of probable cases 344.

The SARS outbreak has hit Asian economies hard with a range of businesses such as restaurants, shopping centers and airlines reporting weeks of sharply lower business. But there have been signs of a recovery in spending in places where the outbreak is believed to be under control.

President Hu Jintao of China said in an interview his country was ready to work with the world to eliminate SARS.

"We are ready to further strengthen our cooperation with Russia and the whole international community in prevention and treatment of SARS," Hu told Russia's Interfax news agency.

Hu said he believed the disease could be beaten with more financing and better research and coordination efforts.

"Of course, in order to better control and eventually do away with this epidemic, we have to pass through a new stage of concerted effort and battle," he said.

"But we are convinced that SARS is a disease which can be prevented, controlled and even cured."

China, with almost two-thirds of the world's cases, reported two deaths, the lowest daily figure since April 20, when the government ordered honest reporting in the face of international criticism it was covering up the outbreak.

The number of new infections, which took China's total to 5,223 with 284 deaths, was the same as Saturday, breaking a trend of declining numbers that had lasted more than a week.

The WHO, highly critical of China's reporting of cases until the government admitted a cover-up, suggested the numbers should still



Reuters

Taiwanese health workers dress a boy and his sister in protective suits outside the emergency ward at Taipei's Mackay Memorial Hospital May 18, after family members came down with a fever. Taiwan saw another record rise in its number of new SARS cases Sunday as the pneumonia-like virus spread to an offshore island and two more hospitals had to be closed.

be viewed with some suspicion.

It said Beijing doctors were misdiagnosing patients with mild symptoms. But a health official dismissed the suggestion and said China would not change its criteria for diagnosing SARS.

The lower numbers have reduced substantially the panic that had gripped Beijing and newspapers said the city would start reopening schools after a one-month closure.

Singapore reported its first SARS case in 19 days, missing by just a day a WHO target of 20 days free of new cases to be deemed SARS-free. A 39-year-old Malaysian man was diagnosed as Singapore's 206th case after coming down with fever on May 5 and being isolated in hospital since May 11, health officials said.

"I know many Singaporeans will be disappointed," Health Minister Lim Hng Kiang told reporters. "Singapore should take this in its stride."

Marne Scoreboard

NBA

Wednesday

San Antonio **119** Dallas **106**

Thursday

New Jersey **97** Detroit **85**

Saturday

New Jersey **102** Detroit **82**

WNBA

Thursday

Houston **75** Seattle **64**
Sacramento **65** Phoenix **56**

Friday

Washington **74** Charlotte **70**

Saturday

Los Angeles **82** Connecticut **73**
Minnesota **72** Sacramento **71**
San Antonio **65** Seattle **56**
Houston **69** Phoenix **62**

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Wednesday

Minnesota **4** Oakland **3**
New York **4** Boston **2**
Cleveland **4** Detroit **0**
Chicago **6** Toronto **5**
Texas **8** Tampa Bay **7**
Baltimore **7** Anaheim **6**
Kansas City **14** Seattle **5**

Thursday

Texas **10** Tampa Bay **8**
Minnesota **6** Oakland **5**
Seattle **5** Kansas City **1**
Detroit **3** Cleveland **2**
Toronto **8** New York **3**

Friday

Boston **9** Cleveland **2**
Toronto **6** New York **2**
Detroit **3** Chicago **2**
Texas **5** Baltimore **3**
Oakland **4** Kansas City **1**
Tampa Bay **3** Anaheim **1**
Seattle **5** Minnesota **2**

Saturday

Boston **12** Cleveland **3**
Anaheim **7** Tampa Bay **2**
Toronto **5** New York **2**
Kansas **3** Oakland **1**
Detroit **1** Chicago **0**
Baltimore **10** Texas **3**
Minnesota **7** Seattle **2**

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Wednesday

Milwaukee **10** San Diego **0**
Montreal **7** Florida **2**
Pittsburgh **5** Chicago **2**
Cincinnati **9** Atlanta **3**
New York **5** Philadelphia **4**
St. Louis **7** Houston **4**
San Francisco **6** Arizona **0**
Los Angeles **3** Colorado **2**

Thursday

New York **6** Philadelphia **3**
Los Angeles **4** Colorado **3**
Montreal **8** Florida **2**
Chicago **3** Pittsburgh **2**
Cincinnati **9** Atlanta **3**
Houston **5** St. Louis **2**

Friday

Philadelphia **4** Montreal **2**
St. Louis **10** Pittsburgh **8**
Florida **8** Cincinnati **4**
New York **6** Atlanta **5**
Houston **7** Chicago **5**
Los Angeles **6** Milwaukee **4**
Colorado **10** San Francisco **7**
Arizona **5** San Diego **3**

Saturday

Atlanta **10** New York **4**
San Francisco **5** Colorado **1**
Philadelphia **4** Montreal **2**
Chicago **3** Houston **2**
Los Angeles **6** Milwaukee **0**
St. Louis **6** Pittsburgh **0**
Florida **5** Cincinnati **4**
San Diego **5** Arizona **1**

NHL

Wednesday

Ottawa **2** New Jersey **1**

Friday

New Jersey **3** Ottawa **2**

Sorenstam fails to make cut

Annika Sorenstam bowed out of the Bank of America Colonial May 23 after shooting 74 and missing the 36-hole cut at 145. Four months of hoopla ended in Texas as Sorenstam, even par after the second hole, made three bogeys before the turn and another right after it to see her hopes of playing the last two rounds slip away.

"I'm going back to my tour where I belong," Sorenstam said, shortly after finishing the round. She added that she would not try to play the PGA Tour again.

Roddick nets first title

ST. POLTEN, Austria — Top-seeded Andy Roddick beat Russia's Nikolay Davydenko 6-3, 6-2 in the final of the Raiffeisen Grand Prix May 24 for his first ATP title of the year.

In the final tournament before the French Open, Roddick notched his sixth career title on clay by using a serve-and-volley game to control the match from the outset, dispatching Davydenko in 63 minutes. Roddick used a serve-and-volley game to control the match.

Bonds banged up

DENVER — Barry Bonds is not expected to play in the rest of San Francisco's four-game series with Colorado after tests revealed tendinitis in his sore right knee.

Bonds was injured May 23 in the first game of the series when he crashed into the wall chasing a flyball by Preston Wilson.

The five-time MVP stayed in the game, but limped off the field after leading off the fifth inning with a single. "Barry had a little bit of tendinitis and aggravated it on the attempted catch," said Giants trainer Stan Conte.

Percival heads to DL

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Anaheim Angels placed closer Troy Percival on the 15-day disabled list May 23 with a hip injury and recalled second baseman Chone Figgins from Triple-A Salt Lake.

Percival, the Angels' career saves leader with 257, had an MRI exam that revealed a strain of the gluteus muscle and degenerative changes in the hip joint. The four-time All-Star was tagged with his first blown save of the season in Anaheim's 7-4 loss.

Busch win for Kenseth

CONCORD, N.C. — NASCAR Winston Cup regular Matt Kenseth took the checkered flag under caution May 24 for the Busch Series Carquest Auto Parts 300 at Lowe's Motor Speedway. Kyle Busch, the 18-year-old brother of Winston Cup driver Kurt Busch, finished second in his series debut.

Kenseth is the current Winston Cup points leader who moonlights in the Busch Series for extra track time and a chance at another victory — a group known as the "Buschwhackers."

Tomjanovich steps down

HOUSTON — Rudy Tomjanovich stepped down as coach to take another job with the Houston Rockets May 23 after 12 seasons that included the franchise's only two NBA championships.

Tomjanovich, who had cut his season short for treatment of bladder cancer, said he looked forward to resuming a more normal lifestyle.

"Just to be one of the people in this city, being a soldier instead of a general for awhile, I look forward to that," Tomjanovich said.