



Task Force Danger

August 2, 2004

BRO Progress

1st Infantry Division

Ground broken on new school in the town of Al Kara

BALAD, Iraq--Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, part of Task Force 1-77 Armor broke ground on a new school in the town of Al Kara this week. Al Kara is a small village south of Balad, in the Ad Dujal District. The project, valued at \$74,600, will provide a modern and improved school for the area.

The former school, which housed a total of 160 students in the area, was a mud brick two-room structure with a corrugated metal roof and no power. The new structure, designed in conjunction with local engineers, is a six room modern concrete structure with a cafeteria and power for air conditioners in each room. The project is also employing 60 local workers in order to complete the school before the first day of class in September.

The ceremony was held at the new construction site and attended by many of the local leaders and farmers in the area. CPT Matt Archambault and ISG Marc Hickey, of Charlie Company were on hand to break ground on the new facility.

"This building is a step in the right direction. The security in the area enables us to do more projects that help the people who need it," stated CPT Archambault.

"To look in the eyes of these kids and see the impact we are having makes the work worth it" stated ISG Hickey.

This project is part of OPERATION TIGER CUB, which partners Task Force 1-77 companies with local schools in the area for support and community relations. The Task Force is currently sponsoring six schools in their area of operations from the villages of Isaki, Balad and Yethirb. The partnership consists of support for renovation and construction as well as donations of school supplies from families and schools in Germany and the United States.

Task Force 1-77, part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, is currently operating near Balad, Iraq. The Task Force has spent over \$2.6 million in Civil Military Operations since March.



Charlie Company, 9th Engineers Repair Oil Pipeline

Led by the Sappers of 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 9th Engineer Battalion attached to Task Force 1-26 Infantry, the sabotaged oil pipeline southwest of Samarra, Iraq was repaired on May 29.

The project had been stalled for several days due to the inability to remove a bad section of natural gas pipe buried three meters in the ground. When 1LT William Wyche and 1st Platoon arrived on site, the chief pipeline worker suggested that they simply cover up the bad section of pipe with dirt, thus abandoning the mission.

Not easily discouraged, the platoon recommended to the pipeline officials that they simply cut the pipe into smaller pieces and lift each section out of the ground with a Small Emplacement Excavator (SEE) truck – a small backhoe-scoop combination. The chief pipeline worker agreed, so the platoon went to work immediately.

Due to the remote location, the platoon had to sling-load a SEE truck and repair pipes on a

CH-47 helicopter and transport them to the worksite on the far side of the river. In order to get other personnel and equipment across the Tigris River to the worksite, SFC Armando Cadena, Platoon Sergeant, worked with local Iraqi civilians to provide local transport on a generally seaworthy, but somewhat small, civilian boat.

“Dealing with pipelines is not something we normally train on as combat engineers,” he stated. “But using problem solving skills we developed as engineers helped us work through the issues to accomplish the mission.”

1st Platoon Soldiers established security at the project site and then assisted the pipeline workers in completing the mission. The damaged pipe was removed and other remaining debris was cleared from the hole. Once the new section of pipe was placed, the sections were welded together and wrapped with plastic tape to prevent rusting and corrosion.

The sappers then used the



SEE truck to backfill the hole and cover the repaired pipe. The Iraqi oil pipeline workers were overjoyed that the repairs had been completed. They then turned on the flow of natural gas through the pipeline.

SGT Joshua Dillinger, a squad leader in 1st Platoon said, “It was a great feeling knowing that our work was having such a large impact on improving the

lives of the Iraqi people”.

The results of the mission were extremely important for the flow of Iraq’s fuel. If this mission would not have been completed, 100 vehicles transporting fuel would have travelled the roads daily from Mosul to Baghdad in order to keep the necessary fuel flowing properly.

Bayji Fuel Distribution Office Opening Ceremony

BAYJI, Iraq – The Salah ad Din Petroleum Product Distribution Center in Bayji opened a new office building July 26. This building was sponsored by the 1st Infantry Division Engineers using Division CERP and built in cooperation with the Distribution Center. This building will support operations at the center and relieve overcrowding in the existing office.

Approximately 50 people were in attendance including several important Iraqi leaders. Governor Mahmood of Salah ad Din, and the Council Chairman of Bayji came out to commemorate the occasion. Also, Abdul Kadr, the Director General of the North Refinery Company, attended the event in addition to LTC Kyle McClelland, Task Force 1-7 Commander, and LTC Courtney W. Paul, Engineer Brigade Executive Officer.

Following a speech by the manager, Jameel Al-Rawi, the group moved to the office entrance. After the ceremonial sacrifice, the governor cut the ribbon and opened the office to the public. Everyone crowded into the building to look around and enjoy a lunch provided by the distribution center.



CPT Dan Young, Governor Mahmood, and LTC Courtney W. Paul pause for a photograph at the opening of the Bayji Fuel Distribution Center.