



Task Force Danger

September 13, 2004

# *BRO Progress*

*1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division*

## ISF Partnership Day

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq—Task Force 1-18, part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, held a Partnership Day event at the “Birthday Palace” in Tikrit on Sept. 1.

The partnership included the Soldiers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, some members of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 77<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment, the 201<sup>st</sup> Iraqi National Guard Battalion, 30<sup>th</sup> Iraqi National Guard Brigade and Iraqi Police from the Tikrit area.

The participants competed in various events like the vehicle push, buddy aid litter carry, weapons assembly and disassembly relay, and a soccer tournament. All teams were mixed with American Soldiers and members from the Iraqi security forces.

“Today is just a day to get together and cut loose after all the hard training and hard missions that we’ve been on and just really to have a spirit of fellowship among those forces that work real hard to make Tikrit a safe place,” said CPT David M.

Krzycki, commander of Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

The ING units with their respective counterparts competed for streamers, which were then placed on that company’s guide-on.

“The most important thing out of this is it helps build cohesion between these units and fosters good relations,” said Krzycki, a native of Sturgis, Mich.

This is the second Partnership Day held in Tikrit.



# City council transcends cultures

AS SA DIYAH, Iraq – CPT Jonathan M. Stewart is used to delivering things, but not just because the Ohio National Guardsman is a postal carrier in the civilian world.

As special advisor for As Sa Diyah and Jalawla, the Commander of Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 252<sup>nd</sup> Armor Regiment helps bring projects in the area to fruition.

The problem is that he often works hard just trying to get the city councils to give him project requests.

“They call me the supreme commander of Jalawla and As Sa Diyah,” he said, laughing. “It can be quite the power trip if you let it.”

Attending a Wednesday morning city council meeting in As Sa Diyah, Stewart noted that the group is “starting to come together.”

“I steer them in the right direction,” Stewart said of the

council members. Jalawla’s population is about 45,000 while As Sa Diyah has about 35,000 people. In As Sa Diyah, the former Coalition Provisional Authority had approved \$2.6 million for an electrical substation; something sorely needed since power is only on for two hours at a clip and then off for another four to six hours.

“By the end of the year, As Sa Diyah should have enough electricity,” he said.

As Stewart sat down with the mayor and some council members to chat, he asked them why they hadn’t compiled a list of “to do” projects.

“They are afraid to make decisions,” he explained after the meeting.

Essentially, if someone suggests something, but it doesn’t materialize, he or she is considered to have failed, he said.



“Democracy is still new to Iraq,” he said.

That’s why many are apprehensive about suggesting new projects for the city. Stewart said they don’t want to lose face with their peers.

Still, he keeps emphasizing that he can’t stress enough for the need to have the city councils submit project ideas to him so he can seek funding. Once the money is secured, three bids are sought for the project.

“This is how it works,” he

explained. “The city council needs to say that it wants a new health clinic. An estimate is then given.”

Once the city council and mayor agree on a project, Stewart then pursues funding for it.

“The group and the mayor make decisions,” he said. “Any requests that come to me will come from the city council and the mayor.”

“This is the only forum in which decisions are made for the city of As Sa Diyah.”

# 211<sup>th</sup> ING improve their reading and writing skills

AS SULAYMANIAYH, Iraq – Soldiers from the 211<sup>th</sup> Iraqi National Guard Battalion recently began a six-month literacy program in coordination with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery on Forward Operating Base Kalsu.

ING soldiers were issued reading and writing materials and began their initial training. The soldiers will attend the literacy course three days a week for six months. During the course, the ING soldiers will acquire the reading and writing skills that will be the foundation for further training in the Iraqi National Guard.

This training is a great investment in improving the life skills of these soldiers by furthering their education.

