

Information Packet

17 May 2004

The Army Reserve is continually changing to meet the challenges of the 21st Century – ensuring we sustain and strengthen the skills necessary to support the Army and defend the nation's interests. The Army Reserve Strategic Communications Team develops, synchronizes and conveys messages to inform internal and external audiences on significant Army Reserve events and developments that impact the Army Reserve.

The Army Reserve Serving with an Army at War

Abu Ghraib Detainee Abuse

The Army is a values-based organization committed to respecting and adhering to international and U.S. laws and standards pertaining to our military operations. The Army Reserve is totally committed these values and to providing trained and ready soldiers for the Global War on Terror. The allegations as to what occurred at this prison are not indicative of the outstanding service of the other 210,000 Army Reserve Soldiers serving their nation. We have included a letter from LTG Helmly on leadership and various statements on issues pertaining to this situation.

The documents in this packet are bookmarked and you may access each individually by clicking on the bookmark tab on the left side of your screen. They can be printed individually or as a total packet.

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*For additional information, questions or comments – Contact COL
Director, Strategic Communications, 703-601-0837*

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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-2400

May 17, 2004

Chief, Army Reserve Staff Group

Fellow Army Reserve Soldiers:

By now, you have probably heard various accounts of detainee abuse at the Abu Ghraib detention facility in Iraq. Army Reserve Soldiers are named in most of these reports.

These offensive acts undermine and conflict with the emphasis on strong values and respect for law and ethics to which this institution adheres. The individuals who allegedly committed these crimes against detainees in Iraq will be dealt with in accordance with the due process of law and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Though the media reports may make it appear this matter was just uncovered, the public revelations are actually the result of a thorough, deliberate effort to ensure the detention facilities were being operated correctly, an effort instituted after a courageous Soldier stepped forward.

As Commander of the US Army Reserve Command, I accept my responsibility to lead this organization in a manner fully consistent with law and Army values. The Army Reserve's mission is to provide trained and ready units and Soldiers to the Army. To ensure we can accomplish this mission, my job is to set and enforce the policies and standards that our organization and its members will follow. It is also my responsibility to ensure our organization remains sensitive and responsive to the needs of our Soldiers, their families and employers.

As Soldiers in this organization, we all accept responsibilities, and at all times are responsible and accountable for our personal actions and conduct. When we take the oath of service, we agree to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. The oath is a promise and a commitment. It is enduring and inescapable.

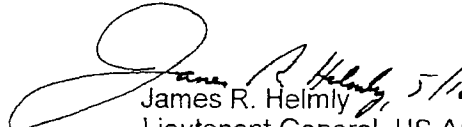
Wearing the uniform means taking responsibility for our actions by living the Army values and the Warrior Ethos. Integrity means we do what is right, legally and morally. Personal courage means we face fear, danger and adversity. Selfless service means we put the welfare of our Nation, the Army, and our subordinates ahead of our own. The Warrior Ethos makes a difference on the battlefield: *I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade.* Throughout history, Soldiers have lived the American values and upheld the standards of ethical conduct that laid the foundation for the law of land warfare and the Geneva Convention. Make no mistake – living the Army values and the Warrior Ethos is not easy to do, but it is the right thing to do.

Finally, as a member of the Army Reserve, we assume a leadership role both within the organization and elsewhere. Family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, business and community professionals in our hometowns admire and respect our service and sacrifice. Our daily actions should reflect that trust and confidence. *Leaders at all levels must do the right thing for the right reason – always!*

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For all these reasons, duty in the Army Reserve represents a serious commitment of purpose. As members of the Army Reserve, we accept a shared responsibility to ensure the integrity of the institution that has been an integral part of the Army for nearly 100 years. We have suffered many casualties in this war. We cannot and will not allow our reputation as selfless servants upholding the highest values to become one of those casualties.

As we continue our mission, we must honor the sacrifice of our fallen, wounded, and captured comrades by conducting ourselves, at all times and in all situations, in a respectful and law-abiding manner. I am proud of you, the magnificent men and women who volunteered to fill the ranks of the Army Reserve. God Bless you, your family, your employers, and the United States of America.


James R. Helmly, 5/16
Lieutenant General, US Army
Chief, Army Reserve

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Documents Listed
as 2-5 in TOC
are included in USARC
index & preview
POC - David Goldsmith

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Public
Newspaper article.

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Update on Operation IRAQI FREEDOM

From Army Reserve Magazine, Volume 49, Number 4

According to Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, Army Reserve Soldiers are doing exactly what they were designed to do, and America is grateful for their service. Speaking recently before the Reserve Officers Association Mid-Winter Conference, Myers noted that Army Reserve Soldiers have become so seamlessly integrated into the total force that it is virtually impossible to tell an Army Reserve Soldier from an active service member. Equally important, he noted that America needs its Army Reserve Soldiers if this country is to win the war on terror.

In discussing how seamlessly the Army Reserve has integrated into the total force, Myers cited an account by a member of a mixed Army Reserve and active duty C-17 Globemaster III crew after a harrowing experience in Iraq. After taking off from Baghdad International Airport, one of the plane's engines was hit by a surface-to-air missile, forcing an emergency landing. According to the pilot of the plane, the lives of all of the people on that plane were saved because of the high level of coordination and communication between all members of the total force.

"I never forget that our Army Reserve Soldiers are a treasure and an important advantage to this great country," said Myers, noting that Army Reserve Soldiers remain absolutely essential to Operation Iraq Freedom. "Reserve service has a long history in America, and today is no different," he continued. "In times of need, when our country needs them the most, Army Reserve Soldiers lock arms to form an unbreakable, unbeatable team — dedicated to defending the liberties we all cherish and to supporting the people who are struggling to enjoy that same freedom."

Here are some of their stories.

HELPING SADDAM LOSE FACE

Until recently, most Iraqis were forced to carry a reminder of Saddam Hussein in their pockets. A picture of his face appeared on all printed Iraqi money. However, all of that has changed now that the Central Bank of Iraq has issued a "new" dinar.

According to Capt. Mark St. Laurent, brigade action officer for the Iraqi currency exchange program and a civil affairs officer with the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, an Army Reserve unit from Riverdale, Maryland, the introduction of the new dinar is a significant step in Iraq's move away from the former regime.

"Replacing the Saddam dinar signals the end of the old regime. No longer will he be viewed as an everyday figure," said St. Laurent. "It also helps reinforce the legitimacy of the new government and the Central Bank's control of the economy."

Consistent with the shift toward a new government in Iraq run by the Iraqi people, coalition forces are playing only a minor role in the currency exchange program. They are providing security only when needed at exchange sites to protect the safety of the citizens and to ensure the proper distribution of the money.

**"Replacing the Saddam
dinar signals the end of
the old regime."**

The new dinar, which is printed on higher quality paper and contains several security devices, such as a watermark, embedded security strip and textured ink, will unify the currency across Iraq. People can exchange their old Saddam dinars for the new ones at a one-to-one rate. However, the former national dinar, known as the "Swiss dinar," which is used mainly in the north of Iraq, is worth 150 new dinars.

"This is good for the people of Iraq," said Dr. Mohamed Jasim, who recently exchanged his money at the Adamiyya Commercial Bank of Iraq. "It is a symbol of moving forward."

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HAVING A BEAR OF A TIME

Although most Army Reserve Soldiers in Iraq carry assault rifles or machine guns, a tranquilizer gun has become the weapon of choice for several members of the 352nd Civil Affairs Command, an Army Reserve unit from Riverdale, Maryland, as they work to bring about major overhauls of the Baghdad Zoo, also known as the Zawra Zoo. Sadir, a 32 year old female brown bear at the Zoo, already has benefited greatly from the presence of these Soldiers. Recently, they surgically removed a cancerous tumor from her abdomen.

"The tumor was becoming infected, so we had to anesthetize her with a dart gun before making some incisions and removing the diseased tissue," said Col. Mark Gants, CJTF-7 veterinarian. "There were a few blood vessels in there that we had to tie off in order to get the bleeding stopped before closing her up again."

Gants, who was head surgeon on the project, was assisted by Spc. Erin McLoughlin, a veterinary technician with the 72nd Medical Detachment, and Lt. Col. Jose Lozada, a veterinarian with the 352nd Civil Affairs Command.

Operating on-site in Sadir's enclosure at the Zoo, the team prepared the bear for surgery. After anesthesia was administered, McLoughlin and one of the Zoo's Iraqi staff members shaved the fur surrounding the site of the tumor. Gant then made the necessary incisions to remove the tumor whole.

The real challenge, however, began after the malignant mass was removed. The blood vessels that were cut in order to extract the tumor were filling the wound with blood. And, in the time that it took to stop the bleeding, the tranquilizer began to wear off. Consequently, the team had to move extremely quickly to suture the incision, clean up and get out of the cage. Fortunately for the team, they were able to exit the enclosure before Sadir regained full consciousness.

According to Lozada, the main motivation behind the U.S. Army's involvement at the Zoo is to train local staff and veterinarians to assume full responsibility for the facilities once the Soldiers are gone.

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"The veterinarians in Iraq are victims of professional isolation. In addition, they have been sorely neglected like most other resources in this nation," said Lozada. "Our hope is that, by involving Zoo staff members and veterinarians in surgical procedures and vaccination processes, they quickly will regain control over this invaluable facility and its inhabitants."

TRAINING IRAQI POLICE AT WEAPONS RANGE

Iraqi police officers had a chance to hone their skills recently on a live-fire weapons range with the help of Soldiers from the 382nd Military Police Detachment, an Army Reserve unit from San Diego, California, assigned to the 18th Military Police Brigade. The weapons training was part of a three-week course called the "Iraqi Police Integration Program," designed to teach existing Iraqi police officers basic weapons fundamentals and tactics.

"The training will make them more effective as police officers," said Cpl. Kenneth Johnson, a military policeman with the 382nd and the weapons range noncommissioned officer in charge of the training. "Many of them have never even fired a weapon."

According to Johnson, the training consisted of two days of classroom training on the safe use of weapons, as well as four days of actual training on the weapons range. On the final day of training, the police officers received their weapons qualification.

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"They were taught the basics of shooting a firearm, as well as how to put rounds down range and pray they hit the target," added Johnson.

According to police captain Sammad Al Hayani, Iraqi police rarely practiced with a weapon in the past.

"There were no shooting and no good pistols before," he said.

Basics of marksmanship included such fundamentals as breath control, sight alignment, and the proper way to squeeze the trigger. On the range, the Iraqi police participated in target shooting from three distances, with the longest distance being 15 meters using Glock 19 Series pistols.

**Iraqi police rarely
practiced with a
weapon in the past.**

"The police officers really had no idea of the weapons' capabilities, and they had no confidence in their own abilities," said Johnson. "It is good to see them gain more confidence. I expect they will become a more valuable asset as their weapons skills increase."

RENOVATING TWO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

School children in grades 1 through 6 recently returned to two newly renovated primary schools in the Abu Ghraib area of western Baghdad. A team from the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Abilene, Texas, managed the renovations and repairs at the two schools. Ruqia Primary School and al-Fayda Primary School.

Capt. Thane Thompson, a team chief for the 490th who hails from Monterey, California, was the officer in charge of the project.

"The coalition is doing a lot of positive restoration work, and the vast majority of Iraqis that we deal with are extremely appreciative," said Thompson.

More than \$80,000 was spent on the repairs and renovations at the two schools. The Ruqia school project cost \$34,000, while the al-Fayda school project cost \$46,000. The funding was provided by the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, an Army Reserve unit based in Riverdale, Maryland, and came from the Commanders' Emergency Relief Funds.

Immediately following the main combat phase of the war, both schools were completely looted. All of the furniture and equipment had been stolen, and even the doors and windows, as well as all light fixtures, wiring and switches, were removed and taken elsewhere. All that was left were the walls and the roofs. So the schools were unusable until the Army Reserve arrived.

"My team coordinated the project from start to finish. We conducted the initial assessments defining the scope of work, found contractors to help with cost estimates, prepared the funding proposals and got the funding approved, and contracted with local construction companies to do the work," said Thompson.

"We also did quality control inspections every couple of days and paid the contractors for their work," he added.

In both cases, the work included masonry, grounds maintenance, windows and glass replacement, interior finishing, and plumbing and electricity.

The commander of the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, Lt. Col. Donna Hinton, cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the Ruqia School, stating: "This is a happy day for everyone. The children are happy to have a good school to go to, the school staff are extremely appreciative, and the Soldiers are satisfied that they have accomplished a great work."

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DELIVERING SUPPLIES TO CAR BOMBING VICTIMS

Much needed help was delivered to innocent victims of a recent terrorist attack in Baghdad. Members of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Greensboro, North Carolina, coordinated with the Iraqi Ministry of Labor and Social Services to deliver food, blankets and clothing to residents left homeless following a car bombing attack on the Al Shaab police station in the Al Adhamiya area of Baghdad.

According to Maj. Jack Nales, a civil affairs officer with the 422nd, four homes, two shops and the police station were damaged and deemed unsuitable for habitation as a result of the car bombing. Seven families were left homeless, while others experienced looting that seriously reduced the amount of their supplies. The homeless families now reside in an abandoned neighborhood advisory council building located behind the former police station.

"We have seven families that are homeless as a result of the attack," said Capt. Chuck Tinney, a civil affairs officer with the 422nd. "All they have left is pretty much the clothes on their backs. They just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time."

According to Tinney, his unit would continue to try to provide as much help as necessary to allow the families to get back on their feet.

"This is an ongoing project," added Tinney. "They still need mattresses, stoves and refrigerators, as well as other support."

Tinney said the non-governmental organization, Premiere Emergence, plans to assess the damage and to rebuild the homes that were destroyed.

"Thankfully, no lives were lost," said Spc. Walter Christopher, a civil affairs specialist with the 422nd. "When we are able to help people, it makes us feel good. This is the good part of our job."

MAKING FRIENDS THROUGH THE NEWSPAPER

The 361st Psychological Operations Company (Tactical), an Army Reserve unit from Bothell, Washington, has come up with an invaluable tool for creating public awareness of safety hazards, as well as for disseminating information on what U.S. and coalition forces are doing in Iraq. Known as "Baghdad Now," the newspaper is published monthly and distributed free to more than approximately 70,000 Iraqi nationals.

"The paper discusses how we are interacting with the Iraqi government during this transitional period and, together, how we are improving life in Baghdad," said Staff Sgt. Richard K. Wilson, team chief with the 361st. "More importantly, it allows the people to know what's going on so they can better see how we are making a difference."

According to Wilson, handing out the newspapers also allows the Soldiers to keep their fingers on the pulse of the community.

"Any time you give these people something, their defenses come down. It's human nature," added Wilson. "We gain instant access to them and their feelings by giving them something. They then are more ready to help us spread the messages expressed in the newspaper."

By showing the Iraqi people how the coalition forces are helping to improve life in Baghdad, the psychological operations team hopes to increase positive attitudes toward the coalition and put an end to anti-coalition aggression.

"Any time you give these people something, their defenses come down. It's human nature."

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Through face-to-face encounters, the psychological operations team also is forming ties with community leaders, such as religious leaders, medical practitioners and professors, who are helping to spread a more positive message.

"It is extremely important that we gain the support of these key communicators. So far, we've built strong, solid relations within the community," said Wilson. "More and more, we are finding that they are coming forward to speak on our behalf."

GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

For many school-age children in Baghdad, school has been out since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. However, for Iraqi children who used to attend the Darweesh school in the western Abu Ghraib province of Baghdad, school is now back in session thanks to the efforts of the Soldiers of the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Utica, New York.

Recently, more than 500 children lined up along the sides of the Darweesh school courtyard to welcome the members of the 414th during a ribbon cutting ceremony designed to mark the official reopening of the school.

Both Spc. Maynard Ainken, the 414th Darweesh school team leader who maintained oversight during the schools' renovation, and Sgt. Louis Polsinelli, a team leader with the 414th who also was a member of the team that helped orchestrate the school's restoration, were among the Soldiers honored during the opening celebration.

"When we first started driving through the area, people often would throw rocks at us," said Polsinelli. "Now, however, after having opened a few schools and demonstrating some real progress, people want to come up and talk to us. They want to interact with us. I think our work has had a tremendous impact on the attitudes of the Iraqi people."

According to Col. Vincent Taylor, commander of the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, an Army Reserve unit from Riverdale, Maryland, it's teams like the 414th that make the reconstruction efforts possible.

"However, doing assessments, making funding proposals, contacting contractors, taking bids, and overseeing progress on renovation and construction efforts are not the only tasks under the purview of civil affairs teams like the 414th," said Taylor. "They also must act as liaisons with the Iraqi people, bridging any cultural and social gaps that stand in the way of progress."

"When a civil affairs team like the 414th accomplishes something like they have accomplished here at Darweesh, they are not only refurbishing a school structure. They are building bridges to the future of Iraq," added Taylor.

"The hearts and minds involved in this project are infinitely more important than the school buildings themselves," said Ainken. "Every child at this school will remember coalition Soldiers being here and helping them with their schools. They will remember that American Soldiers were here when they raised their flag on opening day."

INTRODUCING HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT TO THE NEW IRAQ

Recently, a physicians' leadership workshop was held for local Iraqi doctors and other health care professionals at the Iraqi Forum in Baghdad. Led by Capt. Caroline Pogge, a civil affairs officer with the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Danbury, Connecticut, 28 students, including doctors, pharmacists and representatives from the Iraqi Ministry of Health were in attendance.

The intent of the workshop was to give Iraqi physicians a basic course in health care management — a topic that rarely has been emphasized in the country's health care education according to Pogge, an Army Reserve Soldier who works as a hospital administrator in Sayre, Pennsylvania, in her civilian life.

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"What we've found here is that many of the physicians in charge of Iraq's clinics or hospitals have little or no basic management skills," said Pogge. "This is something we are trying to correct with the local physicians in communities around Baghdad."

Previously, Pogge had met several of the doctors attending the workshop. Many came from clinics and hospitals in eastern Baghdad where the 411th works in the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment's area of operations.

The course was based on one that Pogge took at the University of Kentucky as part of her training in the United States. An eight-day crash course, it is broken into several courses on leadership, decision making, human resources, resource allocation, and project management, all of which emphasize group work, case studies and hands on learning.

According to Pogge, working on problems in groups is probably one of the most important parts of the course.

"Management doesn't have to be autocratic," said Pogge, who hopes Iraq's Ministry of Health will adopt the course for use in the future with more physicians throughout Iraq. "It often is helpful to consult with your staff and to bring them into the process. This is one of things we are trying to teach the health care professionals attending this course."

According to Pogge, the experience has been extremely rewarding.

"It's exciting to go home with a sense of accomplishment — a sense of having helped the local medical community make a smoother transition," said Pogge. "That's what civil affairs in the military is all about — accomplishment."

MOVING PASSENGERS THROUGH AREA 51

The Army has begun operations at a new air passenger terminal in Kuwait, with the goal of transporting hundreds of Soldiers daily to destinations within the Operation Iraqi Freedom theater.

"Soldiers will be traveling by intra-theater airplane into and out of Iraq," said Maj. Vivian Gaz, officer in charge of the 319th Movement Control Team, an Army Reserve unit from Dover, Delaware, responsible for operations at the terminal.

The terminal is composed of several tents, which are being used as passenger holding areas, and a parking lot and turn-around area for buses dropping off and picking up passengers.

"The plan is for Soldiers to be here only about three hours tops," added Gaz. "We will have MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) and water here. Soldiers should have their last hot meal at their departing camps."

To keep operations as efficient as possible, plans call for using only a single type of tactical aircraft. All of the planes will be configured to carry the same number of passengers, as well as two baggage pellets.

The terminal is anticipated to ease some of the congestion at the military APO (airport point of debarkation) in Kuwait. Most travel through the new terminal will be work-related, meaning rest and recuperative travel will not be processed through the terminal. And the terminal will service four airfields — Baghdad International Airport, Balad, Mosul, and al Asad.

"The plan is for Soldiers to be here only about three hours tops."

A small permanent party of Army Soldiers will be stationed at the terminal, dubbed "Area 51" after the locale in Nevada that UFO fantasists theorize is an extraterrestrial stomping ground. Soldiers to be here hours tops."

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DELIVERING THE GOODS

The 358th Civil Affairs Team A (CAT-A), an Army Reserve Unit from Norristown, Pennsylvania, provides direct support to the Multi-National Division-South East (MND-SE) while assigned to Combined Joint Task Force 7 (CJTF-7) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The CAT-A is headquartered in Samawah, Iraq, and coordinates humanitarian assistance activities in close coordination with the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Iraq and Kuwait Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC).

The responsibilities of the CAT-A include providing civil military staff augmentation and civil affairs planning and assessment support to maneuver commanders; providing linguistic, regional and cultural expertise to support commanders; identifying and facilitating foreign nation support; minimizing civilian interference with military operations; conducting area studies and assessments in support of civil military operations; and conducting inter-agency liaison and operations when directed. Some projects the team is involved in include the Rumaytha Sewage Project, Kamidia Medical Supplies Project, the Cleaner and Brighter Iraq Project, and the Rumaytha Girl's Primary School Dental Class Project.

The Rumaytha Sewage Project initially involved installation of gravity drainage, which included installing sewage pipes and manholes, and connecting the pipes to a sump pit. Also installed were a sump pump, pressure line, and electrical backup generation system. The project resulted in availability of cleaner drinking water, better sewage disposal, and an improved quality of life for the people of Rumaytha.

"I love this country, and I love helping these people," said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas D. Bucci, the 358th CAT-A's noncommissioned officer in charge and supervisor of the Rumaytha Sewage Project, who is proficient in the local language.

Sgt. Scott Bambu, a civil affairs specialist assigned to the 358th CAT-A also is proud of his contributions in Iraq. He served as project coordinator for the Kamidia Medical Supplies Project, which was designed to help replenish medical supplies, equipment and medications in and around the Muthanna Governorate. According to Bambu, the Kamidia Medical Supplies Facility has played a vital role in supplying essential items to those medical facilities and hospitals most in need.

"I am delighted to be in a position to make a difference," said Bambu.

The Cleaner and Brighter Iraq Project was designed to temporarily employ up to 100,000 Iraqi citizens to clean up 11 communities throughout the Muthanna Governorate, including the cities of Samawah, Khider, Ramaytha, and Salman. Maj. Kelly Thrasher, 358th CAT-A team leader, managed the project, working with the Iraqi Ministry of Public Works to assist them in achieving their employment and community clean up goals.

"This project has been very popular with the Iraqis because it employs so many people," said Thrasher. "It's great to see the Iraqi people helping themselves."

The Rumaytha Girl's Primary School Dental Class Project involved the issuance of 700 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste provided by the 358th CAT-A, followed by training in proper dental care.

Col. Robert P. Stall, commander of the 358th Civil Affairs Brigade, recently visited his Samawah CAT-A stating, "The Samawah CAT-A is one of the finest special operations teams I have operating in Iraq. Every one of my Soldiers is coordinating, supervising and managing several humanitarian assistance project simultaneously. I'm proud of the great work they are doing in helping the Iraqi people in service to our country."

"The Samawah CAT-A is one of the finest special operations teams I have operating in Iraq."

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