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Propane distribution

Seeds of democracy

A great generation

Ammo removal

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On the cover: Sgt. Damien L. Branch, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 3-69 Armor, patrols the streets of Baghdad May 29. Photo by Sgt. Craig Zentkovich.

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COMMENTARY

A great generation, too

SGT. CRAIG ZENTKOVICH
50th PAD

When I reflect on all the conversations I'd had with combat veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, I was always amazed at their extraordinary stories of bravery and perseverance – their dedication to duty and their love of country at a time of war.

These were the men who set the standard for which we live by today – the seven army values; Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless service, Honor, Integrity and Personal courage.

In recent years, some naysayers had all but written off the young men and women who comprise today's fighting force, questioning their stamina and motivation. Here's a news flash for these "experts" – you were wrong.

Since March 20, I have witnessed unfathomable acts of greatness by soldiers – in the face of fear, horror and loss. These soldiers have not buckled under the pressures of intense small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades, or lost their focus when their subordinates, peers and leaders lie lifeless beside them.

One unit in particular is B Company, 11th Engineer Battalion which has had three soldiers who've paid the ultimate price freeing the people of Iraq from an oppressive dictator.

On the morning of April 4, they came under attack from an estimated 100 Iraqi troops north-east of Baghdad International Air-

port. They were pinned down on Highway 8, suppressed by mortar fire, RPGs and AK-47s. Shortly after a mortar round struck one of their armored personnel carriers, wounding the three soldiers in it, the platoon sergeant of second platoon made a selfless decision. He manned a .50 caliber machine gun and be-

could only watch as an RPG was fired directly at Hollinsaid, killing him. They held their ground, fought hard, killing and capturing many Iraqi troops, while sustaining no further casualties.

At 11:30 p.m., Pfc. Jason Meyer, a driver for 1st Platoon, B Company, stood atop his APC, putting his vest on prior to pulling turret watch. Mistaken as an Iraqi soldier attempting to scale a wall to the front, he was fired on by an M1A1 Abrams tank with a 120-millimeter round and killed. Amid the dust and fear that followed, each soldier in the area maintained their composure, doing everything they could for that 20-year-old soldier, and each other.

I attended the memorial service

that B Co. held for Smith, I spoke extensively with Hollinsaid before the mission, and I was atop the APC when Meyer was hit. I have felt the pain and experienced the horror that B Co. has endured.

Yet in spite of their losses, they continue to accomplish their missions and keep their chins up. They now fight for something that hits closer to home – the memory and honor of their fallen comrades.

This war has proven the soldiers of today's Army are loyal, dedicated, selfless, honorable, and courageous. They live by the Army's values, as did their predecessors. That's what makes this nation and this generation of soldiers great.



Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith and Spc. Fernando Guillen, a mechanic with 11th Eng. Bn., pause from wheel hub repair for a photo at Camp Pennsylvania in February.

gan suppressing the enemy, making himself their main target. Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith fired more than 400 rounds before he was fatally wounded. The enemy retreated shortly thereafter and no more B Company soldiers were injured. He had personally saved their lives.

On April 7, tragedy struck the men of B Company a second and third time. That afternoon, Staff Sgt. Lincoln Hollinsaid, Smith's replacement as platoon sergeant, knocked down a portion of wall running along Highway 8 with a armored combat earthmover.

On the other side of that wall were Iraqi soldiers, who immediately opened fire when the wall crumbled. Soldiers of B Company

Word of success spreads

Task Force Neighborhood continues to roll

STAFF SGT. BRIAN SIPP
3ID (M) PAO

Building upon a successful outing in the al-Noor neighborhood in northwest Baghdad, Task Force Neighborhood focused its efforts May 27 on the al-Hurriyah neighborhood, situated approximately two miles to the south-east in north central Baghdad.

Utilizing the unique approach of “maximum immediate effort for maximum immediate results,” the Task Force soldiers joined local citizens in an all-out, one-day effort of reconstruction and clean-up.

Beginning at 9 a.m., soldiers from 1st Battalion, 325th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division, as well as engineers from the 130th Engineer Brigade, busied themselves on a variety of projects in the local area.

“We’ve got soldiers welding a metal door on a school down the street; we’ve restocked a medical clinic (formerly a Fedayeen building) around the corner; we’ve been hiring workers; and we’re still cleaning up the large amount of garbage everywhere,” explained Maj. Bernie Lindstrom, battalion executive officer, 130th Eng. Bde.

“Everything you saw a couple of days ago (at al-Noor) is here today (in al-Hurriyah). Our intent is not to do stuff for them, but rather get the community energized to provide services for themselves. We provide the spark and the impetus for change at the local level,” he added.

From behind a shower of sparks, Pfc. Ramarcus Ogan, a metalworker with the 535th Engineer Company, braced a steel door while grinding off the rough spots.

TF Neighborhood visits Baghdad hospital

SGT. CRAIG ZENTKOVICH
50th PAD

Task Force Neighborhood, V Corps’ community improvement program for Baghdad, visited Al Wasity Hospital recently in Task Force 3-69’s sector of the city.

Area residents and a multitude of army engineer and civilian affairs assets came together for the daylong project, which included cleanup in and around the facility, as well as structural repairs to the walls and parking area outside the hospital.

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.), was in attendance to observe and assess the project. Though this is the last TF Neighborhood stop in the 1st Brigade Combat Team’s zone, daily community improvements will continue within individual battalion’s sectors of Baghdad.



Photos by Spc. Adam Nuelken

Sgt. Roland Greuel, a masonry specialist with B Co., 142nd Engineer Battalion, and Glyndon, Minn. native steadily replaces wooden desktops and seats at the school.

“I normally do welding, but today we’re hinging and hanging doors,” said the Clarksville, Tenn. native.

Oblivious to the crowd of schoolchildren looking over his shoulder, Sgt. Roland Greuel, a masonry specialist with B Co., 142nd Engineer Battalion, steadily replaced wooden desktops at the school. Taking a breather and wiping the sweat from his forehead, the Glyndon, Minn. native explained his motivation.

“I’ve got kids myself and I love working with them. You can just look at them and tell

they appreciate it,” he said

Using cooperation from local citizens in conjunction with U.S. soldiers and their equipment is the foundation upon which the Task Force Neighborhood, a V Corps initiative, is built.

By limiting the scope of the projects to one-day initiatives, immediate impact is made and results can be immediately enjoyed. Task Force Neighborhood, while only in the beginning stages, appears to be enjoying critical early success, judging by the reactions of the neighborhoods it has operated in.



Spc. Katherine Robinson

Sgt. Daniel Nardy, HHB 1-41 FA, cleans an Iraqi boy’s cut.

Seeds of democracy planted in Abu Gharyib

SPC. JACOB BOYER
3ID (M) PAO

(Editor's note: For security purposes, the Special Forces source in this article can not be identified by his full name.)

The city council of Abu Gharyib met with officials from the town's municipal service and 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment recently to discuss restoring services and order to the town.

The town, which has between 750 thousand and 1.5 million citizens and lies on the outskirts of Baghdad, elected a city council in the first free election in recent Iraqi history, said Lt. Col. Mark Garrell, commander, 1-3 ADA. Soldiers from 5th Special Forces Group who have been working with the townspeople for over eight months helped them with the elections.

"This is a very historic day," said the Fayetteville, N.C., native. "This was the first election like this in the history of Iraq."

The battalion assumed control of Abu Gharyib in April, and went to work immediately trying to contact officials in charge of the hospital, the police and fire departments, and public utilities, Garrell said. As this process went on, Garrell became aware that Spe-



Lt. Col. Mark Garrell, commander, 1-3 ADA, discusses security with members of the police force in Abu Gharyib, on the outskirts of Baghdad.



Photos by Spc. Jacob Boyer

A member of Abu Gharyib's newly-elected city council has his picture taken for an identification card following a meeting between the council and the heads of several of the town's municipal services. Soldiers from 1-3 ADA and 5th Special Forces Group brought the two parties together to allow them to begin restoring services and order to the town's 1.5 million citizens.

cial Forces were working to establish an elected government.

Special Forces had been in the area before the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Capt. Mike, the Special Forces team leader. They spent time developing a rapport with the townspeople before being accepted by the town's elders. As the relationship between the Iraqis and the Americans developed, the Special Forces team helped them set up an election without American influence.

"We were sent here to help win the hearts and minds of the people," Mike said. "We were sincere, and they responded to us. As time passed, they realized we were here to help."

Mike said at first, the heads of the families wanted the soldiers to lead them, but that was not his team's goal.

"We told them if they led, we would support them," he said. "It's all about them, not us. After 36 years under Baath Party leadership, they're scared, and they don't really know how democracy works. But for the first time, they have an assembly elected through a democratic process."

When the battalion and the Special Forces team realized they were working toward the same goal with different groups, they decided to tie their efforts together.

"There are two theories to this kind of work," Mike said. "You can get things going with the civil leaders or the elected government. We went with the leadership aspect, and 3rd ID did the nuts and bolts. Having both sides working made it a lot more seamless."

The main concerns voiced by the council were security and water for the hospital and pay for the policemen, who had not been paid in more than two months. Garrell told the council he would work fast to address the issues he could and take the issues he could not fix up his chain of command. However, he pointed out that the Army could not solve all of their problems, and that they would need the Iraqis' help with every task.

"In order for us to help you, you must help yourselves," he told them. "We don't want to lead you, we want you to lead yourselves. The peace starts here, and the peace here will spread to other areas within the city."

Mike echoed Garrell's comments, saying that the Army needs to support this government, because if it is seen as a success, others will follow.

"We hope that this is a template, but we have to follow through by working with them," he said. "It's got to be a government of the people, for the people and by the people."

U.S. helps Mozambique team de-mine Iraq

SPC. JASON BAKER
49th PAD

A U.S. Airborne unit provided the equipment needed for a team out of Mozambique to conduct emergency humanitarian de-mining and battlefield clearance operations in Iraq.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division provided trucks, security and ambulances to the U.S. State Department's Quick Reaction De-mining Force based out of Mozambique. The team is used by the Department of State to go anywhere in the world and offer emergency humanitarian assistance, McCloy said.

The QRD, a team of civilians, conducted its first operation in a southern residential area in Baghdad May 11. The 50-man unit, waiting for vehicles and other equipment to arrive by boat, was able to start operations earlier than anticipated with help from the 2nd BCT.

"Today was an absolutely superb bit of military and civilian cooperation," said Harry M. McCloy Jr., senior de-mining advisor, U.S. Department of the State.

The QRDF arrived in Iraq May 5 and did not plan on being operational until at least the middle of the month, McCloy said. Through meetings at the Civil Military Cooperation Center, representatives from 2nd Brigade's 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment learned the team of de-miners arrived and asked for the QRD's assistance.

"We needed them to clear an area that would have taken our small Explosive Ordnance Deposal teams longer than their large group of 50 men," said Maj. Scottie Custer, fire support officer, 325th. "Fortu-

nately, we had the resources they were short on."

The team of de-miners formed a single line, each an arms length between them, walking forward, meticulously sifting through litter and vegetation to find and mark the dangerous ordnance.

Once the team covered the entire area, marking n unexploded ordnance, the de-miners consolidated and exploded the unexploded ordnance that could be safely destroyed on site.

The larger explosives were moved to a safer more remote area to be destroyed. The area the QRDF cleared was a "high priority area," said Cpt. David Fielder, company commander, Company B, 307th Engineer Battalion.

"Many of the things we are doing to help the people of this community, like the water and power, the people don't get to see," Fielder said. "But when we are out here they get a first hand look at how we are improving their neighborhood."

The engineers Fielder commands discovered the area from locals who told them two children were hurt by unexploded ordnance scattered throughout the field.

"We are trying to make a change in the community everyday until we leave," Custer said, who is serving as the brigade's deputy in charge of synchronizing the civil-military operations in the 82nd's area of responsibility.

McCloy and his team of de-miners are truly interested in making a difference in Iraq, Custer said.

"What we are doing here is important, this area has one of the highest priorities," Fielder said. "We needed to clear it as soon as we could."



SpC. Jason Baker

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Austin, assistant division commander for maneuver, 3rd Infantry Division, thanks the U.S. Quick Reaction De-mining Force based out of Mozambique for complimenting his EOD team.

296th helps Iraqis receive medical care

CPL. TODD PRUDEN
372nd MPAD

The 296th Ground Evacuation Medical Unit, an Arkansas Army National Guard unit, has begun transporting ill and wounded Iraqi civilians to local hospitals so they can receive adequate medical care.

According to Spc. Daniel Head, a combat medic, the injured that have been transported are flown via helicopter from various locations to the 20th Combat Support Hospital, where they are treated in the emergency room and taken to local hospitals. This is done because most Iraqi emergency rooms in the area

are ill equipped because of the looting that occurred a few weeks ago.

"Our main purpose is to treat the patients at our ER then release them to a regular Iraqi hospital for the rest of their recovery," Head said.

Since most of the fighting in Iraq has ceased, the main mission for the ground evacuation medical unit has changed from a combat to a non-combat medical evacuation mission for the people of Baghdad.

"It is really comforting taking care of these people and getting them the help they need," Head stated. "I'd say the people's reactions make us feel a lot better."



Staff Sgt. Conrad College

Ten-year-old Aswan, with a broken arm, tells Capt. Stacey Simms that she wants to live free, translated by Luma Alhad.

3ID removes ammo; brings safety, security to area

CPT. ELIZABETH WALKER
Special to The LIBERATOR

Although combat operations have ceased in Baghdad, multiple challenges remain for Coalition forces as the city becomes a safer, more secure environment for Iraqi citizens. A key part of this process is removing caches of weapons, ammunition and equipment that remain throughout the city, left over from former Iraqi army units and paramilitary organizations.

Elements of 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) patrol the streets and neighborhoods of Baghdad, restoring public order and safety to the city. In the process of conducting these patrols and talking to citizens, they find hundreds of caches: in former military compounds and training areas, but also in schools, hospitals and homes.

The 41st Field Artillery Regiment, otherwise known as Task Force Victory Bullet, has the critical job of removing all the ammunition and equipment from the city. It relies on 3rd Inf. Div. to consolidate the caches it finds into large storage points, and prepare the ammunition and equipment for transportation.

“Our highest priority are those (storage points) that are closest to residential areas,” said Maj. Kemp Chester, operations officer, 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion, the unit in 3rd Inf. Div. responsible for coordinating the removal effort.

“Due to the unstable nature of many munitions, we prefer to remove those storage points which present the greatest threat to the local civilian populace,” Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Gibson said.

Within 103rd MI’s headquarters, Gibson and other soldiers carefully track the locations and contents of each storage point, and work with Task Force Bullet to schedule missions.

Ideally, U.S. forces would only consolidate ammunition and weapons in a location that was far from civilians or homes. Unfortunately, many of the caches they find are too large for them to move, even though they are dangerously close to residential areas.

Capt. Kevin Brown, assistant operations officer, 3rd Brigade, agreed.

“Our brigade could not logistically support the removal of all caches we found,” he said. “Task Force Bullet’s removal of one cache



The 41st Field Artillery Regiment has the critical job of removing all the ammunition and equipment from the city. It relies on the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) to consolidate the caches it finds into large storage points, and prepare the ammunition and equipment for transportation.



Photos by Cpt. Elizabeth Walker

Soldiers with 41st Field Artillery Regiment cart truckloads of ammunition from a site in Baghdad.

of 3,000 cases of small arms ammunition found in a school house played a key role in allowing the school to open in time for classes to begin on schedule.”

Another obstacle is rendering all the munitions safe. It takes Explosives Ordnance Disposal experts to defuse or dismantle most of the rounds, and these EOD teams are already busy clearing unexploded ordnance from the streets and neighborhoods of Baghdad.

Still, Task Force Bullet is one of the coalition’s biggest good-news stories. Since April 26, Task Force Bullet has removed more than 1,200 truckloads of ammunition and equipment from Baghdad, consisting of over 30 million small arms rounds, 70,000 rocket-propelled grenades, and literally millions of other pieces. It is brought to one of several mass holding areas, where it will be secured until a new Iraqi army is established and ready to begin its own defense of Iraq.

Anywhere from 30 to 60 trucks each day remove pistols, rifles, grenades, RPGs and mortar rounds from Baghdad. Occasionally, Task Force Bullet finds something more unusual: 60 bombs one day, and 11 missiles another. Gold-plated AK-47s and even a crossbow have been carefully packaged and stored in order to be returned to Iraq.

“Part of rebuilding Iraq is ensuring eventually it will have a viable military force in order to protect itself,” Chester said. “Until that time, removing these items...and storing them in a safe place is one more thing we can do to bring safety and security to the people of Iraq.”

3ID, 1AD soldiers provide security for propane distribution

STAFF SGT. BRIAN SIPP
3ID (M) PAO

On May 21, after a nearly three-month absence, liquid propane gas bottles were once again distributed for sale to the citizens of Baghdad for personal in-home use.

Clearing the way for full-scale distribution of the essential cooking supply, the Iraq Ministry of Oil set the standard price of 250 dinars per bottle, established a one-for-one exchange requirement to prevent hoarding, and asked the U.S. military to provide security for government vehicles from the two major bottling plants to the 18 government-run distribution sites throughout the city.

"Liquid propane gas is used by 99 percent of the population for cooking," explained Capt. Eric Strong, troop commander, H Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division.

"One bottle can last a normal family of five for approximately 22 days. If they are doing a lot of cooking, such as baking bread, a bottle will only last about seven days," Strong said.

In addition to 1st Armored Division's H Troop, 3rd Infantry Division's D Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment as well as elements from 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment combined to escort the delivery vehicles and provide on-site security at various distribution points throughout Baghdad.

Accompanying each team, a Psychological Operations vehicle with loudspeakers and an interpreter stood ready should the crowds become unruly.



Spc. John Wollaston

A soldier with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment tries to keep a crowd under control while propane gas is sold to Iraqis.

"We have a scripted level of response depending on the disposition of the crowd," explained Capt. Randall Cartmill, commander Tactical PSYOP Detachment 1210, 315th PSYOP Company based in Upland, Calif.

"Like any commodity that hasn't been available for over two months, a lot of people want it, they're fearful they won't get it, and crowds have been a little rough at times," Strong said.

"However, what we've seen over the last few days, as more gas shows up, and people see it's coming on a regular basis, the crowds

have been more orderly and calm," he added.

Original plans of distribution lasting from May 21-24 have been extended for at least another week due to the enormous need and positive feedback from the Iraqi citizens. "We've delivered over 30,000 bottles so far," Cartmill said.

While liquid propane gas distribution is but one step in restoring normalcy to life in Baghdad, it is an important step in the chain of services the Iraqi citizens deserve and can expect from their government as the Republic of Free Iraq slowly takes shape.

Army plans to clean up Iraq's slaughterhouses

SPC. CHAD D. WILKERSON
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – U.S. Army Civil Affairs visited one of the main slaughterhouses in central Baghdad recently.

A team of civil and military agricultural experts traveled to the meat production site in order to assess the condition of the facilities and determine what steps must be taken in order to bring them up to a healthy standard.

"We are trying to assess the situation here for the purpose of providing technical and humanitarian assets that are needed," said Col. Mohamed Ibraheim, public health coordinator for the 354th Civil Affairs Battalion and team leader on this mission.

Ibraheim and his team met with the state director of animal health and the slaughterhouse's veterinarian inspector to collect information about the past condition of the facility, and gain guidance on the new standard operating procedures that will be enforced to produce a

healthy product there.

All of Civil Affairs' efforts are centralized around collaborating with the local workers in order to develop a working "rule book," said Ibraheim.

This "slaughterhouse bible" will provide guidance on how animals will be assessed before slaughter, what problems to look for in each animal, what problems keep an animal from being deemed acceptable to kill and eat, how each animal will be killed, cleaned, and processed and post processing inspection standards.

Ibraheim guarantees that with the resources and enough time, the slaughterhouse will return to working order in better shape than ever before.

"In the future, things will definitely be better," said Ibraheim. "This is a good building with good facilities. If this slaughterhouse were in America, it would be an A-1 slaughterhouse. We will be able to make huge improvements for the Iraqi people."



Photos by Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

Children from a Catholic orphanage in Baghdad perform for visiting soldiers from 3rd Forward Support Battalion May 24. Below, a sister of Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity and Pfc. Sara Aderholt, A Company, 3rd FSB, help a child in the home try on a pair sunglasses.



Pfc. Sara Aderholt takes a moment to get poked at by an infant from an orphanage for physically and mentally disabled children in Baghdad.



Children at the young girls orphanage visited by 3rd Forward Support Battalion try to pop bubbles made by Capt. William Crawford, 3rd FSB physician's assistant.

Soldiers bring smiles, supplies to children

3rd FSB visits orphanages in Baghdad

SGT. CRAIG ZENTKOVICH
50th PAD

The people of Iraq have endured decades of oppression, poverty and loss. The elder countrymen, in the years leading up to the regime of Saddam Hussein, had lived in a time of greater opportunity and less fear.

For the children of this tattered country, oppression, poverty and loss are all they've known.

Soldiers of 3rd Forward Support Battalion visited some of these children at three orphanages in Baghdad May 24.

Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Heninger, 3rd FSB chaplain, said the reason for the visit is simple.

"We are helping to rebuild the community by reaching out to those in need – the kids," he said. "We want to share the resources we've received from home."

A physician's assistant, a dentist and roughly a dozen soldiers from 3rd FSB accompanied Heninger. They brought with them humanitarian rations, school and personal supplies, and various treats for the children who ranged in age from 7 months to 17 years.

The first home visited that morning was a Catholic orphanage for girls under the age of 13. Shortly after arriving, Capt. Joseph Bonaville, 3rd FSB dentist, gave each of the 17 girls a dental checkup and toothbrush, while Capt. William Crawford, 3rd FSB physician's assistant, handed out bubbles, toys, candy and temporary tattoos.

The story of one of the girls, a ten year old who was wearing a blue floral dress and a constant smile, was heartbreaking to 3rd FSB executive officer, Maj. Derrick Norman.

"(The girl) was abandoned in Basra by her parents just days before the war," he said. "One of the nuns found her and brought her up to Baghdad to live in the home."

Before the soldiers departed the home, the girls handed their guests prayer cards and sang them a Christian song in their native tongue.

The next stop was a Missionaries of Charity orphanage, one of many in the world operated by the sisters of Mother Theresa. The orphanage is home to 22 children, boys and girls, who suffer from a variety of physical and mental debilitations.

"What amazes me most is the dedication of these workers – the nuns," Heninger said.



Cpt. William Crawford, 3rd Forward Support Battalion physician's assistant, blows up a balloon for children at an orphanage in Baghdad.

"They've given their lives to help these kids. It's amazing."

Pfc. Sara Aderholt, A Company, 3rd FSB, spent most of her time playing with an infant girl, dressing her in a hat and sunglasses, while the other soldiers entertained the children with games of patty cake and peek-a-boo.

"These kids were great," Aderholt said. "Their faces were lit up when we were there. I'm glad I was able to come."

The soldiers, having the opportunity to get out and interact with the local populace was another motivating factor for making these visits, according to Heninger.

"(The soldiers) should be given the chance

to reach out and help these people," he said. "To lift others up – it opens the door to emotions that have been closed for a while."

The final destination for the soldiers was a home for girls in their teens, operated by a Catholic priest, nuns and other women.

"The home prepares the young women, as they get older, to move on to other homes and build communities," Heninger said.

"We've spent so much time making this place safe," Heninger said.

"We now want to improve the quality of life for these people who have been impoverished for far too long."

As the day drew to a close, spirits were mainly high.

"I've got mixed emotions," Norman said. "What we're doing is great, but I can't help wondering what type of future some of these kids have – I would love for all of them to have the opportunities that children in the (United States) have."

The children from the orphanages, and all of Iraq, are living in a time of uncertainty and change, but according to Heninger, they're going to be all right.

"These kids have the chance to live a life that they could only dream of a year ago – that's a blessing," he said. "They are proof that our presence here has been for the good of the people."



Chap. (Capt.) Mike Heninger, 3rd FSB chaplain and Roman Catholic priest, speaks with a sister of Mother Theresa at an orphanage in Baghdad May 24.

BIAP meteorologists return to work

Spc. JACOB BOYER
3ID (M) PAO

The Iraqi meteorologists who forecast weather at Baghdad International Airport returned to their weather station May 24 to begin work for the first time since the beginning of Iraqi Freedom.

Weather forecasters from the 15th Aviation Support Operations Squadron have been forecasting around the airport since arriving here April 6, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Julie Moretto, weather forecaster, 15th ASOS.

According to international standards, both military and civilian pilots must receive a weather briefing before flying.

"We're going to continue to have the military take military observations," she said. "But if we're eventually going to turn the airport back over to the Iraqi civilians, we need civilian operators doing their job for civil aviation."

The meteorologists, who work for the Iraqi Meteorological Organization, were glad to be getting back to work, but apprehensive about seeing the destruction their building suffered when looters came through.

"When you come back and see the station down like this, it's a very sad thing," said Selim Al-Sadi, a meteorologist who has worked at the airport for 42 years. "But hopefully, we can get it back to working condition and give the pilots anything they need for civil aviation."

Moretto trained two of the forecasters to use the forecasting equipment the Air Force brought with them.

"The Iraqis know how to forecast, but they don't understand the equipment," she said. "Before, they were using different methods to report the weather than the rest of the world. Since we both speak in weather terms, it's fairly easy to teach them."

3ID, Iraqi efforts facilitate local school reopening

STAFF SGT. BRIAN SIPP
3ID (M) PAO

Baghdad University College of Agriculture, located in west Baghdad reopened its doors on May 15 when between 3,500 and 4,000 undergraduate students were expected to return to class.

Graduate students returned to class on May 3. The university professors and staff worked with 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment soldiers in a joint effort focused on cleaning up debris, basic infrastructure repair

The Iraqis made their first readings on the equipment, and Moretto helped them upload it to the Internet so anyone in the world could look up the data they had collected.

The IMO has not received new equipment in over 20 years because Saddam Hussein's regime made it a low priority, said Muhaned M. Shafic, director general of the IMO.

"We had three wars in the past 20 years," he said. "Saddam didn't want to buy weather equipment, he wanted to buy rockets and bombs."

Another obstacle for the forecasters to overcome will be the lack of historical meteorological records, said Air Force Maj. Dave Coxwell, weather flight commander, 15th ASOS. The records were lost when looters in Baghdad destroyed the IMO headquarters.

"Unless you know something about the climatology of a location, you can't accurately forecast the weather," he said. "It's a tremendous loss, both culturally and historically. It will take them years to get that kind of data put together again."

Shafic said that with the lifting of United Nations sanctions and the support of the United States, the IMO would be better than ever.

He predicted the station at Baghdad International would be fully operational in about a month.

"We've got a very good staff dealing with things," he said. "All they need now is the new equipment. We're a very rich country. With the help of the U.S., we're now free to do what we need to do."



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Air Force Staff Sgt. Julie Moretto, 15th ASOS, explains her unit's weather-reading equipment to Selim Al-Sadi, an Iraqi meteorologist who works at Baghdad International Airport.

The IMO is the oldest meteorological society in the Middle East, Shafic said.

It was established in 1923 and has more than 50 meteorological and four seismological stations throughout Iraq. The station at Baghdad International is the first to be revived since hostilities ended.

and restoration of essential services.

All 700 employees have received their emergency payment of \$20 as an incentive to return to work.

The Organization for Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, headed by retired U.S. general, Jay Garner, who is overseeing Iraq's reconstruction, is working on salary compensation for the university staff and workers.

Approximately 150 families live on the campus and most are employed by the university; including a 29-member local Iraqi

campus police force.

The security element, trained and equipped by U.S. forces to include uniforms and digital photo security badges, works with 1-15 in providing a safe and secure environment for campus families and workers.

"There exists a very well-educated university staff. Most all of the professors and administrators have attended college in the United States, spent time abroad, and speak English fairly well," said Capt. John Montgomery, 1-15 fire support officer, who has spearheaded the restoration of the university.

On patrol: 1-41 FA pounds Baghdad pavement

SPC. KATHERINE ROBINSON
50th PAD

The war is won. But the city of Baghdad, on whose streets it was waged, is in a state of rebirth. Less than two months after 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) first rolled its tanks and Bradleys into Iraq's capital, its citizens are still trying to get back on their feet and the military is here to help.

With combat operations over, soldiers from units like 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, among other 3rd Inf. Div. units, have shifted their focus to security patrols, trying to maintain peace and order in the heart of a broken city.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-41 FA, conducts six patrols every day in its sector. The soldiers do both mounted and dismounted patrols, scanning the streets for signs of danger. They also guard the Abu Haneefa mosque and a gas station. They look for people with weapons, looters, drunk and disorderly citizens and curfew breakers.

Any time the soldiers find people carrying guns, they confiscate the weapons and either turn them in to the Army, or recycle them for use by the Iraqi police force, according to



Sgt. Daniel Nardy greets an Iraqi child outside a gas station the battery guards as part of its patrol operations in Baghdad.



SpC. Katherine Robinson

Sgt. Daniel Nardy, HHB 1-41 FA, watches the street while other members of the battery settle a dispute at a gas station 1-41 guards as part of patrol operations in Baghdad.

Sgt. 1st Class Dwayne Anderson, 1-41 FA fire support non-commissioned officer from Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

“(We look for) weapons and lawlessness,” Anderson said. “There are still some people out there who want to shoot Americans.

“We’ve got people out there trying to find our weaknesses ... what we’re guarding and not guarding,” he explained.

The transition from warfighters to peacekeepers hasn’t been easy for Anderson and some of his men.

“Before, just about everybody you saw wanted to do you bodily harm,” he said. “Now you see people waving and offering you cigarettes ... that’s an extremely tough transition.”

“I’d rather be doing this than fighting a war,” said Sgt. Daniel Nardy, an HHB, 1-41 soldier from Livermore, Calif.

Though the soldiers are always vigilant, they have had success reducing crime since the war ended.

“I think we have cleared up a lot of the guns, but there are still guns out there,” Nardy said. “The looting and lawlessness are down. I can attest to that.”

“You never let your guard down,” added Sgt. Christopher Collum, another HHB

artilleryman from Barbersville, W. Va. “But at the same time, people seem to be coming around more.”

Collum said businesses are opening again, the power and water are getting up and running again, and Baghdad’s citizens are becoming more at ease.

The toughest part of the soldiers’ job, according to Anderson, is deciphering between the good and the bad – deciding which information offered by Iraqis to believe and which to discredit, who is dangerous and who is not.

“We sometimes get (tense) in large crowds, because we don’t know if there is a hostile person in the crowd,” he said.

Edging slowly through a narrow street, hemmed in by brick walls, Anderson and Nardy kept a wary eye on a child with a toy gun. Even children can be dangerous sometimes. Still the soldiers have made friends during their attempts to help the community.

Anderson said he’s glad for the chance to help the community and maintain peace, especially after the violence of war.

“A soldier prays for peace more than anyone,” he said, quoting a sign that hung over his barracks’ door two years ago. “Because he has to make the ultimate sacrifice.”

Marne MPs help restore law and order

SPC. KRISTOPHER JOSEPH
18th MP Bde. Public Affairs

The Fort Stewart-based 549th Military Police Company, recently undertook the first joint patrols with Iraqi police in the war-torn streets here to restore law and order to post-Saddam Iraq.

The Stewart MPs, part of 3rd MP Battalion, are currently attached to the Mannheim, Germany-based 18th Military Police Brigade for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Fresh from a deployment rotation in Bosnia, the 549th came to Southwest Asia as the J.P. Holland winner for Best MP Company in the Army and was given the honor of being the first U.S. MP unit on the road here with Iraqi police.

"This is a wonderful experience," said Sgt. Taurus Hunter, a team leader in first platoon of the 549th. "It's always an honor to work with people from other countries."

According to Staff Sgt. Jonathan McDavid, the platoon's first squad leader, the joint patrols will put the Iraqi police completely in charge.

He said the MPs are "hands off," but are there to offer training advice and give assistance if the Iraqi officers need extra help.

"We are here to lend credibility to their police force," McDavid said. "It's their laws and their country. We are going to back them up."

The patrols began with the Iraqi police leading the way. After circling their patrol sector the Iraqis stopped at one of their abandoned police stations. Inside, the officers familiarized the American MPs with their operations.



SpC. Kristopher Joseph

SpC. Micaele Williams, 549th Military Police Company, exchanges pleasantries with an Iraqi policeman as U.S. MPs prepare for the first joint patrol in Baghdad.

In the course of the briefing, the Iraqi policemen took the Americans on a room-by-room tour of the station, noting that some rooms were used by Saddam Hussein's much-feared secret police. The Iraqi officers even turned over documents to the MPs that revealed information used by the secret police to root out and quell those who opposed Saddam's rule.

Girl Scouts in Ga. help girls' school in Baghdad

SGT. CRAIG ZENTKOVICH
50th PAD

The Girl Scouts of America is an organization that has made contributions to communities in the United States for decades.

One Girl Scout troop in particular, Troop 186 in Vidalia, Ga., has continued that tradition and made a donation to a community half a world away, to girls they've never met.

They raised \$1,000 dollars to purchase school supplies for a girls' school in Baghdad, which were hand-delivered to the school by Col. William Grimsley, 1st Brigade Combat Team commander, and other soldiers of 1st BCT May 28.

"When we first got (to Baghdad), everyone wanted to send stuff," Grimsley said. "We got the message out to send school supplies, not candy or other stuff that would go to waste."

Grimsley's niece, Ari Hodges, a resident of Hagan, Ga., was one of the people who got the message. Hodges, a member of Troop 186, got together with her troop leader and five other girls in the troop to begin a fund-raising

drive.

"She's a great kid," Grimsley said. "She's home schooled, helps her parents at their sandwich shop, watches her two-year-old brother and sister, and is active in the community."

The school, which Saddam Hussein took from a Christian church 12 years ago, has more than 150 high-school aged students.

"This is kids helping kids," Grimsley said. "(The Girl Scouts of America) is a great organization that is living up to its values."

Additionally, Troop 186 has given the girls from the school their mailing address to begin a pen pal correspondence.

Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Nordstrom, 1st BCT chaplain, helped organize the school-supply effort in the 1st BCT zone.

"This tells me the people in Vidalia not only have patriotic feelings, but have convictions about what (the U.S. Army) is doing here," he said. "And they're willing to back it up with time, money and effort."

Time, money and effort from Americans as well as soldiers have made it possible for school supply donations throughout Baghdad.

"This is only the opening shot of the campaign to get supplies to the schools," Grimsley said.

"I appreciate the time that people in the (United States) have taken. The feedback from local residents has been nothing but positive."

During the visit, Grimsley addressed the concerns of the school's staff.

"Their primary concern is security and safety in the area," he said. "(Baghdad) is as safe and secure as any major city in the world."

Before Grimsley and the other soldiers of 1st BCT departed, the headmistress, teachers and students of the school thanked them and the girls of Troop 186 for the much-needed donation.

"My prayers are that these children have the same opportunities and freedoms that my children do," Nordstrom said. "(Troop 186) is doing their part to give the children these gifts."

On Saturday, 1st BCT will continue the school-supply effort by delivering supplies to 105 schools in their zone.

GLOBAL NEWS

'The order from hell'**3rd Infantry will stay in Iraq because of continued violence****NOELLE PHILLIPS**

Savannah Morning News

Through it all, no commander gave a date for 3rd Infantry Division troops to come home. Still, all of these things led families to believe their soldiers would soon return from war in Iraq.

On Thursday, however, orders for a follow-on mission dashed vision of happy reunions at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

"The words they used were 'indefinitely,' said Laura Chaplinski, whose husband is a Black Hawk helicopter pilot from Hunter.

Third Infantry families first learned of the extended deployment through early morning news reports. Then rear detachment commanders circulated an e-mail to families.

"The rear command has received confirmation that today that the 3rd Infantry Division will be receiving orders for a follow on mission that will delay redeployment plans," read the email from Col. Edwin R. Marrero, Fort Stewart's chief of staff. "Details of that mission will be released at a later date."

Later, the post's public affairs office distributed a news release saying no official order had been received. However, it quoted May. Gen. Buford Blount, 3rd Infantry commander, as saying the Department of Defense plans to keep a larger force than anticipated in Iraq.

"This will mean most of the 3rd Infantry Division will stay through August," he said.

Lt. Col. Mike Birmingham, the division's spokesman in Baghdad, said the 1st Armored Division had trained to take its place. However, small pockets of resistance east and north of Baghdad are preventing the transformation of Iraq.

"The 3rd ID is being directed to those trouble spots because it has demonstrated its abilities to close with and capture or destroy the enemy," Birmingham said.

The division never had set a time line, Birmingham said. Officially, there was never an order to redeploy to Fort Stewart, so there really isn't a delay, he said.

"Just as we did in decisive combat opera-

a lot of people had "high hopes" that soldiers would come home soon.

"I think it was an assumption – and at the time a safe assumption – that things were calming down and more forces were coming in," Brosseau said.

Chaplinski heard that her husband was packing to come home. Then she heard the Thursday news reports.

"This is not only a shock to us, but it's a shock to them," she said.

Chaplinski said she had attended a meeting with the unit's family support group to talk about the return and she had been invited to Hunter to paint "welcome home" banners.

"We did not have a definite date, but we were definitely led to believe they would start coming home and they would be home by the 4th of July," Chaplinski said.

She doesn't fault those who lead the family support groups because the decision to keep the troops was made by commanders on much higher levels.

Chaplinski expressed more concern about her husband and other soldiers than her own survival as a temporary single mother of three.

After months of desert training and weeks of warfare, the troops are growing weary, she said. They've got to be so afraid they're going to get ambushed every time they turn a corner that they probably never sleep," Chaplinski said. "They were mentally on their way out and now they're not."

The furor over the extended deployment reached U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston, R-Ga., when military families began calling. He placed a call to the Defense Department's congressional liaison office to get an explanation. He hadn't received one by Thursday evening.

"Now they're getting the order from hell," Kingston said. "They're going to be over there a while longer."

The 3rd Infantry troops captured Baghdad and toppled Saddam Hussein, he said. Their mission is complete and they need to come home, he said.



A U.S. soldier keeps alert as his Humvee convoy drives by Fallujah, 30 miles north of Baghdad, May 29.

AP

tions, our forces are flexible and capable of adjusting to meet the threat," he said. "Units, like the 3rd ID, are scheduled to redeploy when the conditions are appropriate. In this case, a safe and secure environment that allows for civil-military operations and reemergence of civil governance.

Even though there was no official time line, many say the division had begun planning its return under the assumption that Iraq would be secure at this point. The tentative time lines were developed around May and June return dates, and word trickled among the ranks that the division would be home soon.

When soldiers spoke with family members, they told them about redeployment plans. Soon, everyone expected troops to come home within weeks. Early reports had them coming home by June.

Then the date moved to July 4. Picnics and parades were planned.

Susanna Brosseau, whose husband serves in the 1st Brigade, knew official orders to return to Fort Stewart had never been given. But

Nation's terror alert falls to 'Yellow'

JOHN J. LUMPKIN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After 11 days at orange, the national terrorism alert level was dropped one notch to yellow May 30 after officials determined that the threat of imminent al-Qaida strikes had diminished. The alert level was changed after various intelligence sources noted a modest decrease in terrorist threats. Officials were also worried about a possible attack on Memorial Day, which passed without incident.

“The lowering of the threat level is not a signal to government, law enforcement or citizens that the danger of a terrorist attack has passed,” Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said in a statement. “The U.S. intelligence community remains concerned that al-Qaida is attempting to exploit our weaknesses.”

No domestic terrorist strikes were attempted during the relatively brief alert. Previous alerts lasted roughly a month.

Yellow indicates an elevated risk of terrorist attack, while the old level, orange, means a high risk.

Yellow is the middle level on a five-color scale. The lowest two levels, green and blue, and the highest, red, have not been used since the system was adopted in March 2002.

Homeland Security officials say the system serves as guidance for law enforcement authorities, businesses and the public on how likely a terrorist attack is at a given time.

The alert level was raised on May 20 after terrorists believed linked to al-Qaida struck in Saudi Arabia and Morocco. Seventy-five people were killed, including eight Americans.

At the time, Ridge said it was feared the incidents could mark the beginning of a wave of worldwide attacks that could include U.S. targets.

With the alert, government authorities and businesses stepped up security, particularly at Memorial Day gatherings. Lowering the alert level allows authorities to scale back some measures, a move favored by many local governments struggling with budget shortfalls.

The terror alert has been at orange four times since the system was put in place. No domestic attacks have occurred during any of the alerts.



Reuters Graphic

Hunt for Iraqi weapons shifting gears

MATT KELLY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A large new U.S. team heading into Iraq to search for weapons of mass destruction will shift its focus away from areas identified as suspicious sites before the war, the Army general heading the effort said May 29.

Instead, the searchers will focus on areas where documents, interviews with Iraqis and other new clues suggest biological or chemical weapons could be hidden, Maj. Gen. Keith Dayton said.

Dayton leaves June 2 for Baghdad, where he will head the Iraq Survey Group. The team of about 1,400 experts from the United States, Great Britain and Australia will take over the weapons search from a smaller U.S. military team.

The shift comes amid growing questions from allies and some members of Congress about why no chemical or biological weapons have been found. President Bush said Iraq had chemical and biological weapons, as well as a nuclear weapons development program. Bush used the elimination of those programs as justification for waging war against Saddam Hussein's regime.

Before the war, the United States drew up a list of more than 900 “suspect sites” where weapons of mass destruction or evidence of such programs might be found. Military teams have visited more than 200 of those sites without finding any actual weapons.

The United States has found two equipment-filled trailers in northern Iraq that American intelligence agencies say were mobile biological weapons production facilities. Bush and other administration officials say the finds show Iraq did indeed have clandestine programs to make germ weapons.

In response to questions about the credibility of U.S. intelligence, CIA Director George Tenet released a statement Friday defending his agency.

“Our role is to call it like we see it — to tell policy-makers what we know, what we don't know, what we think, and what we base it on,” he said. “The integrity of our process was maintained throughout and any suggestion to the contrary is simply wrong.” Dayton, a top official in the Defense Intelligence Agency, said he remains convinced his team will find chemical and biological weapons in Iraq.



A group stands around the base of a new sculpture which was unveiled in al Firdos Square in Baghdad, Iraq May 29.

AP

U.S. judge finds Iran liable for 1983 bombing of Marine barracks

AFP

WASHINGTON – A US federal judge found Iran liable for the 1983 bombing of a U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut that killed 241 troops, calling the attack an act “of unspeakable horror” that had left an indelible imprint on the lives of those affected by it.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth appeared to step up pressure on the Islamic republic.

It came as the Bush administration expressed “serious unhappiness” about Tehran’s alleged harboring of al-Qaeda operatives and its meddling in the affairs of U.S.-occupied Iraq.

“The court concludes that the defendants, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian Ministry of Information and Security, are jointly and severly liable to the plaintiffs for the compensatory and punitive damages,” Lamberth wrote.

The suit was brought by family members of the dead Marines as well as those wounded in the October 23, 1983, attack blamed on the radical Islamic group Hezbollah.

The Marines were killed when a 19-ton explosives-laden truck, disguised as a water delivery vehicle, rammed through protective barricades at the compound entrance.

The truck detonated in front of the barracks, demolishing the building.

Court papers described the blast as “the largest non-nuclear explosion that had ever been detonated on the face of the Earth.”

US troops had been deployed in Lebanon earlier that year as part of a UN-sponsored multinational peacekeeping force in hopes of separating conflicting parties in the Lebanese civil war and bringing it to an end.

Lamberth said the justice system will not be able to heal the pain of hundreds of Americans who lost their loved ones as a result of the attack. He insisted the court could try to achieve “some small measure of justice for its survivors.”

The amount of punitive and compensatory damages will be established later on an individual basis, but plaintiffs’ attorney Thomas

Fay said they were likely to reach a total of 2.3 billion dollars.

“We are really pleased by the decision,” Fay told AFP. “For the first the families have seen some vindication. More than anything else the families want terrorism to stop.”

Iran has repeatedly denied any involvement in this and other terrorist acts.

But US intelligence information, expert analysis of the explosive and testimony by a former Hezbollah member have convinced the court that Tehran had a hand in the operation.

According to the US government, Iran spent up to 150 million dollars financing radical Islamic organizations in the Middle East, including Hezbollah, between 1983 and 1988.

Moreover, former deputy chief of naval operation Admiral James Lyons testified that about a month before the bombing.

US intelligence had intercepted a message from Tehran to Iranian Ambassador to Syria Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

It contained an order to contact the leader of the Lebanese-based group Islamic Amal, Hussein Musawi.

Musawi was ordered to instigate “a spectacular action against the United States Marines,” according to Lyons.

An ex-Hezbollah operative, who gave his videotaped deposition under the pseudonym of

“Mahmoud,” said he was aware that Ambassador Mohtashemi had relayed these instructions to his contact man in Lebanon known as Katani.

Katani soon took part in a meeting in the Lebanese city of Baalbek attended by Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah.

“They met and adopted the operation against the Marines and the French barracks at the same time,” Mahmoud testified. “The Marines operation was done.”

Forensic expert Danny Defenbaugh, who had examined the scene of the blast, said the explosive used in the attack was so-called “bulk form” pentaerythritol tetranitrate, which is not commercially available and was not manufactured in Lebanon at the time.

It was however produced in Iran, according to Defenbaugh.



AFP

A group of U.S. Marines stand guard in front of the destroyed section of the U.S. embassy in Beirut in April 1983 after a terrorist bombing.



Sports Highlights



NBA

NBA Finals 2003

June 4

New Jersey at San Antonio, Game 1

June 6

New Jersey at San Antonio, Game 2

June 8

San Antonio at New Jersey, Game 3

WNBA

Saturday

Cleveland **74** NY Liberty **50**
Indiana **71** Washington **60**
Charlotte **70** Detroit **67**

Sunday

Connecticut at San Antonio
Washington at NY Liberty
Houston at Minnesota

Tuesday

Phoenix at Houston
Sacramento at Seattle

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Texas **8** Baltimore **4**
Chicago **3** Toronto **2**
Anaheim **2** Tampa Bay **1**
Oakland **6** Kansas City **1**
Seattle **10** Minnesota **6**

Friday

Baltimore **8** Texas **1**
Cleveland **7** Chicago **3**
New York **6** Detroit **0**
Toronto **13** Boston **2**
Tampa Bay **8** Anaheim **6**
Kansas City **11** Oakland **6**
Seattle **6** Minnesota **0**

Saturday

Cleveland at Chicago **ppd.**
Detroit **4** NY Yankees **2**
Oakland **7** Kansas City **6**
Seattle **5** Minnesota **2**
Toronto **10** Boston **7**
Anaheim **6** Tampa Bay **1**
Baltimore **7** Texas **1**

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Wednesday

Chicago **5** Pittsburgh **4**
Florida **4** Montreal **3**
Florida **6** Montreal **0**
Atlanta **15** Cincinnati **3**
Philadelphia **11** New York **3**
St. Louis **3** Houston **1**
Colorado **6** Los Angeles **0**
San Diego **8** Milwaukee **6**
San Francisco **10** Arizona **2**

Thursday

Colorado **12** Los Angeles **5**
Milwaukee **3** San Diego **2**
Montreal **3** Florida **2**
New York **5** Philadelphia **0**
Houston **7** St. Louis **4**

Friday

Houston **9** Chicago **1**
Philadelphia **12** Montreal **5**
Atlanta **5** New York **2**
Cincinnati **4** Florida **3**
Pittsburgh **7** St. Louis **3**
Arizona **8** San Diego **3**
Milwaukee **5** Los Angeles **3**
San Francisco **6** Colorado **2**

Saturday

NY Mets **4** Atlanta **2**
Chi Cubs **1** Houston **0**
Pittsburgh **4** St. Louis **3**
Florida **3** Cincinnati **2**
Montreal at Philadelphia **ppd.**
San Diego **8** Arizona **7**
Los Angeles **3** Milwaukee **0**
San Francisco **2** Colorado **1**

NHL

Stanley Cup Finals

Anaheim **3** New Jersey **2**
Game 3 Devils lead **2-1**

Brown to coach Pistons

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — The Detroit Pistons fired coach Rick Carlisle and will hire Larry Brown, a source within the league said Saturday. Carlisle was fired late Friday and the Pistons will replace him with Brown on Monday, the source told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

"If you think he's going to bring in a stiff behind me, you're nuts," Carlisle said. "He's going to bring in a big-time guy, and if he can do that he will have done his job."

Team USA finalized

USA Basketball finalized its Olympic qualifying roster Thursday, officially adding the Nets' Richard Jefferson, the Clippers' Elton Brand and Nick Collison who just finished his collegiate career at Kansas.

Tim Duncan, Tracy McGrady, Jason Kidd, Ray Allen, Mike Bibby, Karl Malone, Allen Iverson, Kobe Bryant and Jermaine O'Neal had already been named as the team's core group.

Ducks win in overtime

ANAHEIM, Calif. — It took the Mighty Ducks eight periods to score their first goal of the Stanley Cup Finals.

It took less than seven minutes to score their first overtime goal. Ruslan Salei found the net off a faceoff for a 3-2 win over New Jersey in the Ducks' first-ever home game of the Finals.

Patrik Elias brought New Jersey level, shooting high over Jean-Sebastien Giguere's right shoulder on a mini-breakaway.

Marlins fined

NEW YORK — Commissioner Bud Selig has fined the Florida Marlins for not interviewing minority candidates before hiring Jack McKeon to replace manager Jeff Torborg. The penalty - minus a fine amount - was confirmed by a baseball official who spoke to the Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Marlins president David Samson would not confirm or deny the fine.

Busch win for Kenseth

CINCINNATI — Free-agent quarterback Shane Matthews agreed to a one-year contract with the Cincinnati Bengals on Saturday. Matthews, a 10-year NFL veteran, is 11-11 as a starter in the NFL, including a 3-4 starting record with the Washington Redskins in 2002. Matthews' agent also declined to comment on the contract. "I can say that Shane is very excited about the chance to play with the Bengals and to be back with Marvin Lewis again."

Big ACC starts tour

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner John Swofford headed a delegation that began touring the University of Miami May 29. Also, Rutgers spokesman John Wooding confirmed that the Big East guaranteed Miami at least \$9 million annually for the next five years if the Hurricanes remain in the conference.

The visit to Miami is the first of three to Big East schools.