



# THIS WEEK IN IRAQ

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## Present Day Build Honors Past

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER** – Local architecture plays an important role in the culture of the marsh Arabs of southern Iraq. No structure captures the lifestyle and traditions of the region more than the “mudhif,” a traditional structure making a comeback in modern construction here thanks to a little outside help.

First built in the marshes of what is now southern Iraq over 5,000 years ago, the mudhif is a unique local meeting place constructed entirely of reeds, straw and other natural materials. Over time, the building process hasn’t changed greatly.

Lengths of reed about 10 meters long are bunched into columns, tied together, and then shaped into huge parabolic arches. Hand-woven mats are then tied over and between the columns, forming a roof. Finally, reed lattice panels are attached to the sides, allowing for both sunlight and airflow into the interior and enclosing the entire hut.

The design of the mudhif reflects local traditions. For instance, there are always [READ MORE](#)



Iraqi contractors construct the main reed arches of a marsh Arab mudhif. The house is a blend of adobe and reed building materials used frequently by marsh Arabs in southeast Iraq. U.S. Army photo courtesy of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

## This Week in News ...

[Deployed Couple Says ‘I Do’ Again](#)

[Troops Help Iraqis Build ‘O Course’](#)

[Soldiers Prepare to Renovate Nearly 150 Schools in 100 Days](#)



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**FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ** – Two U.S. Soldiers here are in the process of composing contracts to renovate nearly 150 schools throughout Iraq’s Ninewa province in just 100 days.

Staff Sgt. Bryan Lightfoot, Company C, 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion attached to 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and Spc. Joe Winebarger, Company C, 422nd CA Bn., are doing what Soldiers do best – making a challenging task seem like a piece-of-cake.

Lightfoot said getting the contracts done so the schools can be upgraded, thereby providing better education facilities for

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An Iraqi Federal Policeman carries boxes of books for distribution to Baghdad's Fursan Primary School during a delivery conducted by the Iraqi Forces and B Troop, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, April 11, 2010. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jared Eastman.

## Joint Mission Brings Books to Baghdad

**BAGHDAD** – Three schools in the Iraqi capital received a special visit recently, welcoming both Iraq and U.S. forces delivering a slew of books for the eager children.

“Today we went on a book drop mission to try and give the Iraqi schools English-Arabic books,” said Sgt. Alexander Hudson, B Troop, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, and a native of Pittsburgh, Pa. “The benefit is the Iraqis see the U.S. and ISF working together to help Iraq as a whole.”

With the atmosphere of a “bring-your-child-to-work-day,” Soldiers found the situation reversed and sat with Iraqi school kids and rehearsed vocabulary. Their whole-hearted attempts caused laughter amongst the children.

“I feel like this is an important mission,” said Spc. James Shapiro, of B Troop, and a native of Casagrande, Ariz. “As this is

my first deployment, I was expecting a lot more firefights, but stuff like this is important. It not only shows the Iraqi kids that we care about them and their future, but it also helps give them an education.”

Soldiers and ISF members alike carried in the Arabic Scholastic books to each headmaster’s office. Members of the school thanked the ISF and U.S. Soldiers profusely for providing the books. For the scouts of the squadron, this was a scenario that required both security and friendly behavior.

“All my guys are professionals, and they are trained,” said Hudson. “That’s my focal point. When we go out – let’s say for a book drop – our discipline level is so high that we can hold our weapons down. You don’t always have to be in [an offensive position], but we are always watching our sectors. You can greet and smile, but you

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## Isolated Iraqi Troops at Border Fort get MEDEVAC Training from US Team

**JOINT SECURITY STATION CHILAT** – In a war zone, the ability to quickly transport injured personnel for treatment is critical for all, but especially for those serving at remote forts on the Iran-Iraq border in northern Maysan province.

To that end, members of U.S. Border Transition Team Phoenix and the flight crew and medics of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment, recently assisted their Iraqi medical partners by providing basic MEDEVAC training to members of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 11th Brigade, Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement.

The U.S. team, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, conducted the crucial training here – where U.S. and Iraqi forces work and live side-by-side – at the request of the 11th Bde., DBE commander.

Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy Moore, BTT Phoenix medic and a native of Houston, Texas, assisted in the teaching of several techniques, including 9-line MEDEVAC transmission, litter carries and improvised litter construction.

Moore, a veteran of multiple combat tours, emphasized the importance of remaining calm during emergency situations.

One of the main training objectives was to familiarize Iraqi DBE Soldiers with both hot and cold helicopter load

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## Moments in Time: Still Images from the Military’s Best Photographers



An Iraqi T-72 tank fires at Baghdad’s Besmaya range during a firing exercise with the U.S. 69th Armor Regiment.



An Iraqi girl exits a butterfly-decorated gate as U.S. Army Soldiers pass through her neighborhood in Al Qurna, Iraq.



Iraqi Soldiers conduct a foot patrol in Madinia, Iraq, continuing to develop while providing security for their country.