

# **MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD**

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## **Progress in Ghazaliyah highlighted in media tour of neighborhood**

By Sgt. Brian Tierce  
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BAGHDAD – For the past three months Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers of the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division worked hard alongside their partners from the 22nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and the Government of Iraq. Together, they worked to improve essential services and provide security for the residents of the Ghazaliyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad.

Signs of the improvements can be seen all over the district from cleaner streets to the open and thriving markets.

The return to normalcy was put on full display to the Iraqi news media when the 5th Sdqn., 4th Cav. Regt. hosted a media day Jan. 21 to highlight the recent gains made in essential services and security.

“One highlight of these projects is that they have been done in the spirit of partnership,” said Lt. Col. John Richardson IV, a native of Tallahassee, Fla., commander,

5th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., “From the beginning we have worked directly and closely with the Government of Iraq and our Iraqi Security Force counterparts to build civil capacity while simultaneously achieving military victory.”

The event kicked off with a presentation from Richardson to the media representatives and distinguished members of the community.

During the presentation Richardson detailed the accomplishments of the combined force and highlighted ongoing and future projects, which are aimed at improving the quality of life for the residents of Ghazaliyah and praised support provided by local leaders.

“Local leaders have played a key role in our ability to make this a combined effort,” said Richardson. “They have allowed us to achieve quick victories to deny terrain to the enemy while helping to build civil capacity.”

Following the presentation the leader of the South Ghazaliyah Neighborhood Advisory Council spoke to the audience about the improvements seen from 2006 until now.

“From the end of 2006 until the beginning of 2008 the insurgents were located in this neighborhood,” said Abu Saif, South Ghazaliyah NAC leader. “Then with the assistance of Coalition Forces the security situation improved and was turned over to the Iraqi Army.”

With the improved security came the chance to revitalize the area, which was capitalized on by the squadron.

In the past three months the unit has worked to provide a number of significant upgrades to the area.

The most notable improvement is a sewage project, which has removed waste from a number of different locations in the neighborhood.

Another project that helped reduce violence in the area was aimed at stopping the flow of weapons from neighboring communities by establishing security and checkpoints on traditional weapon-smuggling routes.

“Clearly there are improvements to essential services in Ghazaliyah and we can see and touch these improvements,” said Sheik Abdel Razaq, chairman of the Ghazaliyah support council. “This is due to the Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition support of these services and the infrastructure of this neighborhood.”

One of the highlights of the event was a market tour at one of the many open air markets in the neighborhood.

Vendors were hard at work preparing fresh vegetables and cooking local delicacies and the market area was filled with smiling children and a sense of optimism not seen in years past.

“Clearly the people are walking the streets of Ghazaliyah with freedom and without fear and we thank the ISF and Coalition forces for that,” said Razaq.

The event was capped off with the opening of the Ghazaliyah School.

The school is furnished with new classrooms, a computer lab, a basketball court and new bathrooms. Students lined the entrance to the school and handed bouquets of flowers to members of the ISF.

Before exiting the school Richardson took time to address the media and answer any remaining question in reference to progress in the area.

“It is the integration of Coalition Forces, Iraqi Security Forces and advice and input from local Iraqi leaders that have set the conditions for long term sustainable progress in support of the people of Ghazaliyah,” said Richardson.

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**Candy.**

BAGHDAD – 2nd Lt. Cait Smith, a native of Oswego, N.Y., 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad passes candy to children in the Ghazaliyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan 21. Smith was taking part in a tour of a market in the area, which has seen revitalization recently due to grants provided by Coalition Forces aimed at boosting business in the area.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div, MND-B)



### **Iron Dagger.**

BAGHDAD – Lt. Col. John Richardson IV, a native of Tallahassee, Fla., commander, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad speaks during a press conference at Joint Security Station Ghazaliyah III in the Ghazaliyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan 21. Richardson was detailing the accomplishments achieved by working with the Iraqi Security Forces and the Government of Iraq to improve essential services and provide a safe environment for the residents of the Ghazaliyah neighborhood.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div, MND-B)



### **Press Pool.**

BAGHDAD – A diverse crowd of local Iraqi leaders, military commanders and media personnel listen as Lt. Col. John Richardson IV, commander, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad speaks during a press conference at Joint Security Station Ghazaliyah III in the Ghazaliyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan 21. Richardson was detailing the accomplishments achieved by working with the Iraqi Security Forces and the Government of Iraq to improve essential services and provide a safe environment for the residents of the Ghazaliyah neighborhood.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div, MND-B)



### **School.**

BAGHDAD – School children greet local Iraqi leaders, military commanders and media personnel who attended the grand opening of the Ghazaliyah School in the Ghazaliyah district of northwest Baghdad Jan. 21. The school is one of many recent projects completed through the efforts of the Government of Iraq, Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div, MND-B)



### **Walk-through.**

BAGHDAD – Members of the Iraqi news media walk through an Iraqi market during a visit to the Ghazaliyah neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan. 21.

The event was conducted to highlight security and essential service improvements to the neighborhood, which have been achieved through the

efforts of the Government of Iraq, Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National  
Division – Baghdad Soldiers.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div, MND-B)