

YOU SENT...

"A MESSAGE THAT BRIDGES THE CULTURAL DIVIDE"

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

A truism states, "When a difficult task is mastered it looks easy." Such definitely applies to the on-going projects by which critically needed humanitarian aid is shipped to distant places via the United States of American military resources. This details one of those many projects. Many may be unaware of all that is involved in these projects so I have provided a very brief timeline of email communications giving you a bird's eye view of the processes involved in this project.



Three pallets of humanitarian aid awaits pickup, transportation and delivery at Najaf, Iraq, June 21. The flight was scheduled to drop off the aid and donated supplies to displaced families at Camp Al-Manathera.

This project began in the fall of 2007 with the deployment of LTC Roberto Garcia. Without Bob's guidance this project would have never happened. Contemplate the incredible number of people involved...We involved the most generous help in the collection points in Columbus, MS, Judsonia, AR, Parkersburg, WV, Ft Smith, AR, Carthage, MO, and Richmond, VA in order to secure the commodities. So far countless military personnel were involved from Little Rock, AR to Charleston, SC to Jackson, MS to Andrews, MD to Ramstein to Balad. Our Congressional representatives from the Senate and House of Representatives and their staff have been involved. Critical logistical planning and approval came from Dana Alzouma and Sara-Anne Lemanski of the Denton Program and USAID and Phylliss Marshall of SDDC. The guys in Charleston, SC (Jim Ward and Ken Hundemer) were invaluable, as you can see from the sampling of email communication below.

The significance of this project was well summarized by LTC Fred R. Harmon: *"This was significant because it was an opportunity to have the Iraqi Air Force and the Iraqi Army working together for a mission that benefits the Iraqi People."* Because the US military had secured and surfaced the land, trained the Iraqis, and provided

guidance, the Iraqi military was involved in a humanitarian exercise for their own people—a wonderful success highlighting the benefits of our involvement in that nation. Consider this story and be amazed at the successes of our military!

This report is not complete. We have the commodities in Najaf and will soon be receiving pictures and reports of the distribution. These will be eagerly shared.

We are awaiting final steps in the process to ship a large load into Tallil, Iraq that will basically refit medical facilities and schools. News of that load will be documented and shared as well. Other projects are also in various stages including one that arrived in Soto AB (Honduras) that has wheelchairs and clothing for orphaned children and is scheduled for delivery and distribution on 7 July.

I am sending this out on our Independence Day 2009. Such is fitting as this project highlights the multi-faceted work that our military does.

Thank you to the soldiers, airmen, sailors, and Marines for your service in securing the land for peace and the hearts for democracy!

John

John L. Kachelman, Jr.
Judsonia Church of Christ
P. O. Box 422
Judsonia, Arkansas 72081
Mobile: 901-626-4538

The greatest trees stand today because some "nut" held its ground!



NAJAF, IRAQ SHIPMENT EMAIL TIMELINE

From: skyjumper@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 3:50 PM
To: jkachelman@msn.com
Subject: Re: Fire truck to Ukraine

Hi John sorry for long response. Just came out of field from training, I leave for Iraq, in 3 days. I will have a sharp individual working in Jordan, one of the gateways, to get humanitarian supplies into the wars. John if you could help me in obtaining the wheelchairs, for my side of house, all your help is appreciated. We can do lots of good with such a mission.

FAST FORWARD 18 MONTHS...

From: m.coriano@bdab.afcent.af.mil
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2009 12:34 PM
Subject: RE: Denton Program Cargo to Iraq

ALCON:

I'm a public affairs chief working in the Victory Base Complex within BIAP and have been working stories involving Airmen/coalition forces in the area. Recently, I was made aware of this operation but I need some background information to assess and help setup a plan. The basic "5 Ws" and the timeline, would be great to start with, any information would be appreciated, thank you.

SMSGt Marcos J. Coriano
AFCENT/PA News Team Chief

From: Garcia, Roberto L LTC RES USAR USARC
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2009 10:36 PM
Subject: Re: RE: Denton Program Cargo to Iraq

SMSGt Coriano,

ALCON

Greetings I am LTC Roberto L. Garcia. I will answer the 5 w's...I am a Civil Affairs army LTC. While in Iraq in 2008 I was a Deputy PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Team) Leader working on a Department of State Base in NAJAF. While there I distributed Humanitarian Assistance materials donated by the Churches of Christ in the USA.

Items included were shoes, winter clothing wheel chairs blankets. It was given to an Iraqi Displaced Camp in the Holy city of Najaf. The items were sent utilizing a USAID program called the DENTON Amendment. This utilizes space available space on USAF cargo aircraft.

On my return back to the USA, the same Christian group has sent once again aid to Iraq, to assist in the mission and effort to help people of Iraq. Once again the Denton Amendment was utilized and the 4 pallets of cargo are currently in Ramstein Germany awaiting space available lift to BIAP.

I will get you the POC's at the PRT in Najaf. When I was there in 2008 I was able to get local press coverage from the USAF and it made AFN news. At that time we could not get international coverage CNN, FOX...We would of had it, but the news people in Green zone could not make it. I think we should try and get them on this mission. This is a short explanation.

I will give you specific details on the donating group and specifics on your 5 w's in next emails.

I am currently in Chicago assigned as a Civil Affairs officer and continue to support the war effort. In my real Job I am a Chicago Police Officer, and work in an Organized Crime Division combating illegal gun sales, and combating gangs.

I hope this starts to explain some of your questions. Be safe and you are not forgotten.

RLG

LTC Roberto L. Garcia
308th CA BRIGADE

From: John L. Kachelman, Jr [<mailto:jkachelman@centurytel.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2009 7:21 AM

Subject: RE: RE: Denton Program Cargo to Iraq

SMSgt Coriano,

ALCON!

Greetings to all and best wishes for a day filled only with joy. I am John Kachelman from Searcy, AR and am coordinating the collection of items needed for these projects. Some background on my involvement...I have helped ship humanitarian aid into a number of nations utilizing transportation assist programs of the USA DOS/DoD. Through these programs I have shipped into Somalia, Sudan, Zambia, Ukraine, Rep of Georgia, Rep of Kyrgyz, Honduras, El Salvador, and there maybe a few others that I've forgotten. Currently I am helping folks prepare shipments for some these plus other nations. I have just returned from Ukraine and Tajikistan where I had helped ship items (you can check my website for reports & pics from these locations by clicking on the UA flag at www.kachelman.com). Fortunately I can say without reservation that any loads going through The Denton Program ALWAYS go smoothly! I have shipped into northern Iraq (Kurdish regions) and into Najaf. We are working on a second load into Najaf and a load into Tallil that focuses upon a hospital. The POC of contact for Tallil is LTC Clinton Moyer. The coordination of The Denton Program is under USAID and Dana Alzouma is the POC of there (I've included her in the cc) and the guys at Charleston AFB (Jim and Ken) coordinates logistics and other necessary things and makes everything look so simple. Of course the critical connection is the link with the POC in-country. The project in Najaf is an excellent illustration of how we want things to go in these loads. The primary reason for this is the attention of LTC Garcia. Even after returning to the States Bob has continued to help me in carrying out the mission in Najaf. Through this on-going project there has developed a network that utilizes all components from the USA side with those on the Iraqi side and the mission not only helps address critical community needs in Iraq but it is helping train the Iraqi partners in a mission that develops civic organization as well as civic concerns. As Bob says, "It is a win/win for all."

My involvement philosophy is simple—we have secured the land now we need to secure the hearts so that victory will assure a society that recognizes the value of each human and enjoys the blessings that security brings to society.

The collection of items has been a simple process. I work with churches of Christ. When Bob was leaving Bragg for Iraq he emailed asking if I could secure commodities to help the vulnerable Iraqis during the winter that was coming. I sent out a plea and instantly I received an overwhelming response from a number of locations wanting to help. The first load went out of Columbus, MS and was well received. Media coverage was great. See attached, A link offered more pics. I'm not sure if it is still live but here it is: http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=video/video_show.php&id=46166

The funding of the transportation assist programs is what makes this project (and many more) possible. I am in a constant mode of urging Congress to continue (and increase) funding for these efforts. The good media coverage that comes from the successful missions is a great help in this effort. I also utilize letters and stories from distributions to show how valuable these missions are.

I hope this helps fill in some data for you. If you need any more please ask.

Best wishes to all!
John

From: Hundemer, Kenneth I CTR USAF AMC 437 APS/DPX
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2009 7:37 AM
Subject: RE: RE: Denton Program Cargo to Iraq

ALCON

LTC Garcia can discuss the 5 w's for the cargo, donors, and recipients and I can try to fill-in those blanks for the transportation. This cargo was moved into Little Rock AFB, AR on 27 May, palletized for airlift on 3 Air Force 463L pallets (5,046 lbs.). It was moved from LRAFB on 2 June via Air Force Reserve Command C-130H to Andrews AFB, MD. From there, via AMC AE Channel airlift it was moved to Ramstein AB, Germany on 4 June. Currently, the three pallets are manifested on a mission expected to leave Ramstein today, 9 June, for Balad. Once I know they have departed, I'll let you know.

From: Hundemer, Kenneth I CTR USAF AMC 437 APS/DPX
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2009 8:33 AM
Subject: RE: Denton Program Cargo to Iraq

Capt Brilla

I have attached the JMR Req. Form that LTC Garcia has provided with the number of pallets to include dimensions, weights. It is three 463L pallets. I've also attached the packing list to identify the cargo on these three (3) 463L pallets. The cargo is moving US AMC airlift to BIAP. As I identified earlier, this cargo is manifested to move to Balad today. I have contacted MSgt Joseph Johnson, on this email list, in cargo processing about assisting by keeping an eye on this cargo once it arrives to make sure it doesn't get lost. LTC Garcia is the POC for movement from BIAP to Najaf. He sent an email 8 June explaining that he will get you the POC's at the PRT in Najaf, providing somebody on the ground in Iraq to help coordinate this final, critical leg. This is a difficult task and everyone appreciates any effort you can provide in getting these goods to Najaf. Thank you in advance for your efforts.

From: Hundemer, Kenneth I CTR USAF AMC 437 APS/DPX
Subject: Pallets for Najaf

The three pallets for movement to Najaf PRT have arrived at BIAP/Sather AB, Iraq on mission AMYF103TY161 or call sign *Moose 67 at 1116Z* on 10 June. TSgt Johnson, Please let me know that you have possession of these pallets. Let's see what we can do now to get the final leg to Najaf PRT completed in a timely manner so the cargo can get distributed to those in need. Call/email me where I can fill-in forms, make phone calls, send emails to expedite things. Thanks for everyone at BIAP and Najaf PRT for your assistance.

From: Brilla, Andrew J Capt USAF AFCENT 321 AEW/MSU
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2009 6:06 AM
Subject: Najaf Movement

SMSgt Coriano,

Our AOC folks are telling me that Najaf is a go for tomorrow. Times below are in Zulu (document is sent out over NIPR as IqAF does not have SIPR capabilities). Looks like a 0900 local take-off which means an approximate 0730 manifest/load time. Personnel named in the email trail as those who were going on the plane are still good to fly tomorrow as there has been a mission essential letter signed by the first O-6 in the chain of command. That being said, if the names have changed, a new letter would need to be accomplished (recommend not changing the names). My goal is to be out there with you in the morning checking it all out, but I make no promises.

ANDREW J. "AJ" BRILLA, Capt, USAF



An Iraqi air force crew chief inspects a C-130 during a pre-flight inspection at new al-Muthana Air Base, Iraq, June 21. The flight was destined for Najaf, Iraq to drop off three pallets of humanitarian aid and donated supplies to displaced families at Camp Al-Manathera.

From: Allen, Justin T CPT MSC CAFTT ACC ADVISOR
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2009 10:00 AM
Subject: JMR

AJ,
Your JMR is scheduled to go on Sun 21 Jun. Times are all zulu. Here is the info. I am the designated English instructor and I need to get a helo ride to Rustamiyah the first week of July. Not sure of the exact dates yet, but there is a week long Familiarization with the American Language Course workshop there. Thanks
Justin
v/r,
Capt Justin Allen, USAF

From: Hundemer, Kenneth I CTR USAF AMC 437 APS/DPX
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 9:06 AM
Subject: RE: Pallets for Najaf

Hey John,
The mission was supposed to go on Sunday, 21 June. I'm checking to see if it made it.
Ken



An Iraqi air force C-130 does a combat offload of humanitarian aid at Najaf, Iraq June 21

From: Garcia, Roberto L LTC RES USAR USARC
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 9:58 AM
Subject: Re: Pallets for Najaf

John no word yet from PRT in Najaf. Once we get it to PRT. Deputy PRT Idr will coordinate missions for distributions.
Bob

From: Hundemer, Kenneth I CTR USAF AMC 437 APS/DPX
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 10:04 AM
To: John L. Kachelman, Jr; Garcia, Roberto L LTC RES USAR USARC
Subject: FW: RE: Najaf Movement

John,
Pallets are in Najaf (see below). As soon as I get some pictures I will forward them to you.
Ken

From: Harmon, Fred LTC RES USAR FORSCOM
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 11:01 AM
Subject: Re: RE: Najaf Movement

Ken,
Yes the items arrived in Najaf and pictures were taken. I'll try to get you some as soon as I can download the pics.
Regards,
LTC H

Fred R. Harmon
LTC, CA
Deputy Team Leader
Provincial Reconstruction Team Najaf
FOB Endeavor

From: Garcia, Roberto L LTC RES USAR USARC
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 10:14 AM
Subject: Re: Najaf Movement

Fred, congrats to all on getting pallets to holy city of Najaf. The American peoples' unwavering support for all who are serving is evident and the helping hand for a people that are developing into a great nation. Thanks

U.S. Air Forces Central
INTEGRITY - SERVICE - EXCELLENCE
AMERICA'S AIR FORCE

IRAQI AIR FORCE, ARMY DELIVER SUPPLIES TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

by Staff Sgt. Tim Beckham
U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs Documentation Team-Iraq
6/30/2009 - **NAJAF, Iraq**—

With the help of many organizations back in the United States, the Iraqi Provincial Government received three pallets of humanitarian relief supplies, which they will distribute to the local populace here.

"Helping people who are less fortunate is always a good thing whether in your home town or across the world," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Fred Harmon PRT deputy team leader and project coordinator. "Overall these shipments send a message that bridges the cultural divide. In the more immediate impact, they simple help those who need it."



An Iraqi air force crew chief inspects one of the propellers during a pre-flight inspection at New Al-Muthana Air Base, Iraq June 21, 2009. The flight was destined for Najaf, Iraq to drop off three pallets of humanitarian aid and donated supplies to displaced families at Camp Al-Manathera. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jacqueline Romero)

"It is important because it is a capacity-building effort," added U.S. Army Lt. Col. Roberto L. Garcia, a civil affairs officer with the 308th Civil Affairs Brigade in Homewood, Ill., and project coordinator back in the states. "It not only helps one person, but helps the whole mission war effort. Hopefully this can change the Iraqi citizens perception on coalition forces."

The humanitarian relief supplies, which consisted of wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, blankets and clothing, will also enable the Iraqi air force and Iraqi army to work together.

"This was significant because it was an opportunity to have the Iraqi Air Force and the Iraqi Army working together for a mission that benefits the Iraqi People," said Harmon, who is deployed from the 413th Civil Affairs Battalion in Lubbock, Texas.

Once the items have been categorized and the needs of the local people have been identified the supplies will be issued to the local Iraqis who need them most.

"The Iraqi army will deliver the items to local communities after assessing the needs against the items that have been donated," said the colonel, who is a native of Amarillo, Texas. "This is something extra above our basic mission here. Everyone feels a sense of accomplishment when you can help others."



Three pallets of humanitarian aid to displaced families at Camp Al-Manathera are transported to Najaf, Iraq June 21.

Video Description: A B-roll of an Iraqi Air Force C-130 aircrew delivering humanitarian aid to Al Najaf Airport. Scenes include pre-flight checks and combat pallet drop at the airport.

http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=video/video_show.php&id=62851

Link to Military News article:

<http://www.centaf.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123156718>