

# Local Soldiers Build Cultural Ties

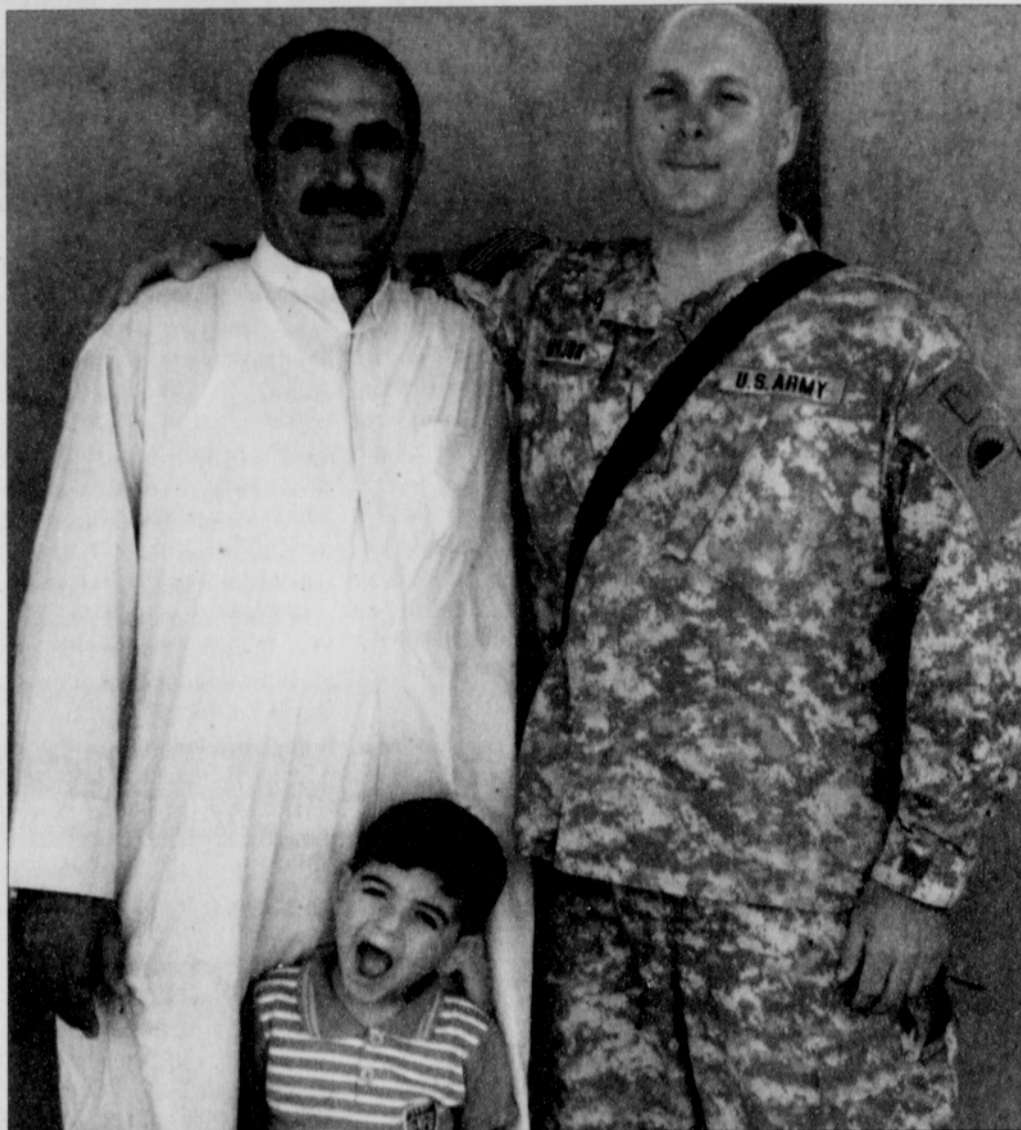
## Iraq unit shares in pre-Ramadan feast

BY SPC. ANITA VANDERMOLEN  
Members of the Oregon National Guard's Alpha Company, 2-162 Infantry, recently had the opportunity to go outside the front lines of war and build cultural ties with the local population in Iraq.

Ali Jadaan, a local sheik and contractor in Scania, Iraq, invited the command staff of Alpha Company, Capt. Charles Ellis and Lt. Mark Major, and others to the Aug. 19 feast prepared by his family.

"There was a lot of food, a lot of variety," Capt. Ellis said. "It was definitely harvest time with all the fresh fruit there. It was very nice."

The guests tasted a chicken and rice, meat and rice wrapped in grape leaves, soups, pickled vegetables, flat bread, fresh fruits



and vegetables, and dates.

The relationship between the township and Jadaan is a complimentary one. Each provides the other with a service they need.

Jadaan is a construction contractor. His company has built a firing range, a trash removal system and burn pit and guard towers. The local marketplace was also built by Jadaan and his workers. His relationship with the military also is beneficial to the Oregon soldiers' mission.

"Mr. Ali provides an Iraqi insight for us," Capt. Ellis said. "He is able to locate parts and materials on the Iraqi economy that we could not otherwise find. His contract work is substantially less than KBR's. He does on-the-spot details."

◀ Iraqi contractor Ali Jadaan, his son, and Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Mark R. Minor capture memories last August during a pre-Ramadan feast.

Oregon's Alpha Company provides immediate and quick reaction to the surrounding area when rockets or mortars are fired at the area. They respond to incidents outside the base protecting the villages from possible attacks and providing security and safety to people in the area. They also work with the Iraqi police and the Iraqi army when these incidents occur.

The means are different but the goal is the same: to improve Iraq.

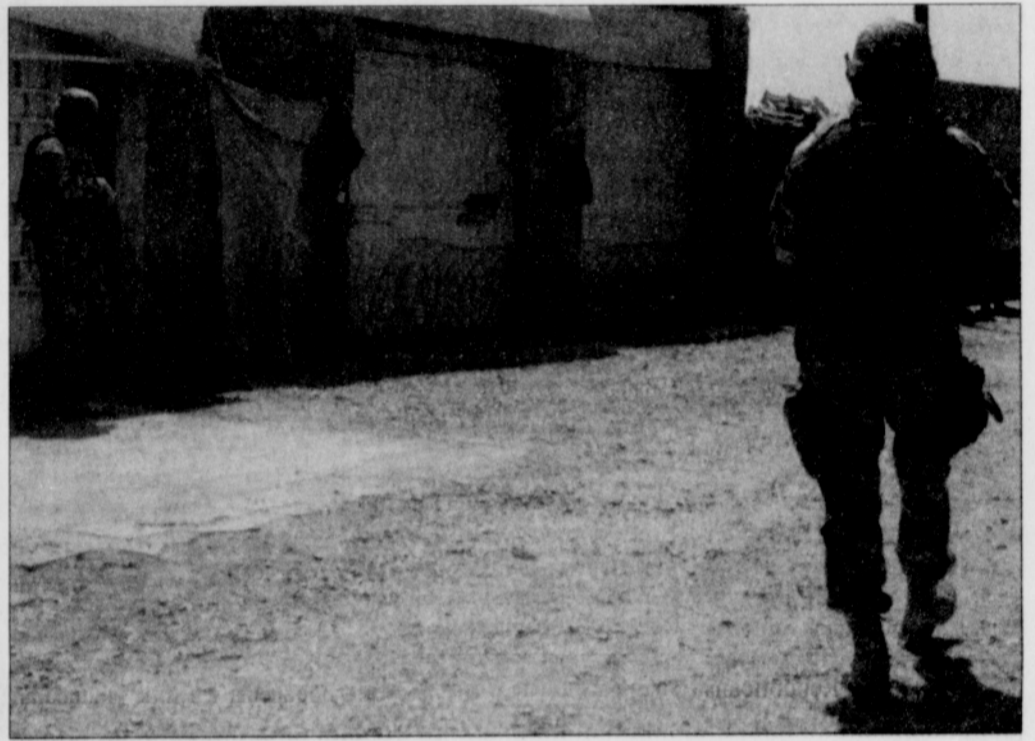
"I was impressed. They are very eager to help us," Ellis said. "They want to help get their nation built and on the right track. I think in a few years you aren't even going to recognize Iraq anymore. It will improve that much."

Jadaan has been working with the Army's Scania Base for six years.

"He's definitely not going back to raising melons and cucumbers like he did before," said Ellis.



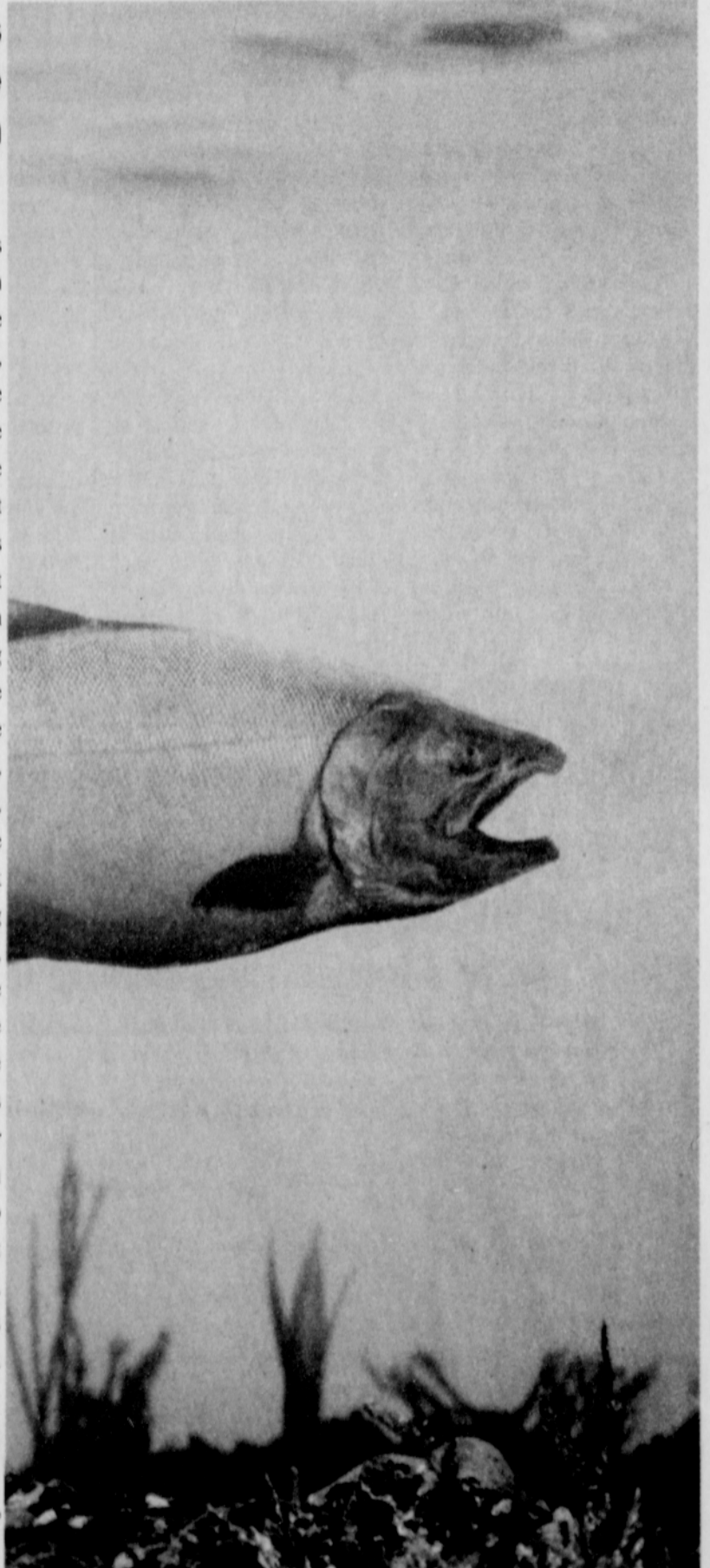
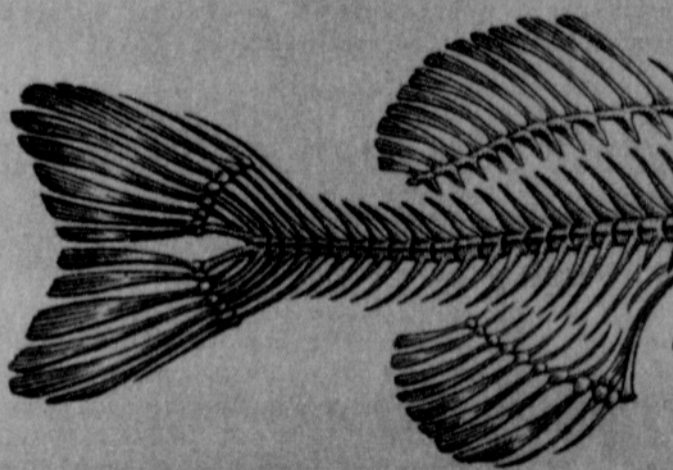
A feast consisting of chicken and rice, soups, fresh fruits and vegetables, pickled vegetables and dates greeted members of an Oregon Army National Guard unit invited into the home of an Iraqi contractor.



Soldiers of A Company, 2-162 Infantry, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard, provide security during a pre-Ramadan Feast hosted by an Iraqi contractor near Scania, Iraq.

## Lottery Dollars Help Restore Fish Habitat In Hood River.

It wasn't long ago that the waters of the Pacific Northwest ran clean and pure. And in those mighty rivers there were fish, lots of fish. But then people moved here, and more people moved here, doing what people do, which isn't always the best thing for fish. So fish populations suffered. But Oregon wouldn't be Oregon without fish, which is why Lottery dollars are being used to restore fish habitat. One example is Hood River, where with the help of Lottery funds, good old fashioned hard work, and business cooperation, the vital tributary of Neal Creek has been restored. Spawning grounds were cleaned up, improved, and returned to more natural conditions to create the cool, clear, sediment-free waters fish need. The result is miles of more healthy water for endangered Coho Salmon and Steelhead populations to grow. Restoring vital habitat to endangered fish species, it's just one of the many ways Lottery dollars help give back to Oregon.



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