



An Iraqi girl shows off her new backpack. Coalition Provisional Authority officials delivered more than 200 backpacks chocked full of school supplies. Military members deployed to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing donated the supplies and backpacks.

‘Win the Peace’ coalition delivers hope for future

SOUTHWEST ASIA — More than 200 students at a school outside Al Nasiriya, Iraq, received a surprise delivery of school supplies in February. The supplies were donated by “Win the Peace,” an unofficial, on-base organization made up of deployed Airmen with the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing.

Airmen assigned here in December raised money for the shipment. They were able to purchase the supplies at discount prices from local vendors who were interested in contributing to the program.

More than 200 backpacks filled with paper, pencils, pens, erasers, calcula-

tors and other necessities were given to the children. Teachers also received a 500-pound box filled with soccer balls, games and other recreational equipment.

Other items were donated by an elementary school at Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn., and the 9th Medical Group at Beale Air Force Base, Calif.

The delivery was a coalition effort with the Italian air force volunteering air transportation of the supplies to Tallil Air Base, Iraq. Coalition Provisional Authority officials, Army civil affairs members and British soldiers then trucked the items to Qurtabah Elementary School and a nearby facility.

“These gifts will help the students in their studies and encourage them to do their best,” said **Jassem Mohmed Hasson**, an Iraqi education development specialist, through an interpreter. He said the donations “will make the relationship between the Iraqi people and the Americans very strong.”

Win the Peace has been active at the 380th since May 2003. This was the third shipment made to Iraq since October. The previous two were sent to schools outside Kirkuk Air Base.

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