

Airmen reach out to help Iraqis

by Master Sgt. Sean E. Cobb



BAGHDAD, Iraq — The bright yellow ball bounced out of the box as Iraqi children eagerly clamored to snatch it from a chaplain's hands.

One young Iraqi boy emerged victorious, waving the soccer ball wildly over his head before tossing it back and forth to a friend in the crowd gathered around a Humvee.

Members from the chaplaincy, Air Force office of special investigations, medical squadron and security forces squadron of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group here conducted a humanitarian relief mission in March to Vedgha, Iraq.

"We want to try and make their lives better," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) **Rich**

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Rich Hall (wearing the flack vest) hands out clothing, shoes, food, medication and toys during a humanitarian relief mission in Vedgha, Iraq. Members of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group's chaplaincy, Air Force office of special investigations, and medical and security forces squadrons assisted with the mission.

Hall, the group's head chaplain. "I think it's important Iraqis see [the U.S. military has] a caring side."

The team targeted family members as they handed out children's clothing, shoes, food, medication and toys. Many of the villagers' babies don't get clothing until they're older, so baby clothing was a hot item, the colonel said.

"I saw joy in the women's faces when they were given clothes for their babies," he said.

Toward the end of the mission, the crowd of Iraqis surged forward, almost overwhelming the chaplain in their desire for the goods.

The team said their efforts seemed to make a difference.

"Thank you, thank you," said **Ouaud Mohamed**, a villager, as the team departed.

— Master Sgt. Sean E. Cobb
447th Air Expeditionary Group
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Take a chop at terrorism

SAN ANTONIO — Young officers and government civilian employees who possess the skills to think like a terrorist are being sought for the Space Countermeasures Hands On Program at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Sponsored by the auspices of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate, lieutenants, junior captains and GS-7 through GS-9 civilian employees can spend four months of temporary duty trying to detect cracks and vulnerabilities in the U.S. space defense system.

The philosophy: "What can a rogue nation or terrorist group look at and figure out? If our guys can do it, then our enemies can, too. Our goal is to see what an educated amateur can do. We want to see what a bright bunch of young guys can find out," said **John Holbrook**, program operations manager.

The advantage of youth is beneficial, he explained, because "they don't know what they don't know" and offer

"out-of-the-box youthful thinking." To mount their threat, participants are armed with ordinary resources such as the telephone, Internet, library and off-the-shelf items readily available to U.S. adversaries, Mr. Holbrook said.

One previous group built a satellite jammer by effectively using noise.

"Our teams provide a valuable input as the United States considers its own possible vulnerabilities," Mr. Holbrook said. All career fields will be considered, but engineers and scientists are among typical participants, he added.

Why not senior noncommissioned officers and field grade officers? "They know too much," he joked. "Other agencies perform vulnerability studies using experienced people, so we concentrate on the non-expert approach. The leadership can then fuse together the results of both types of studies to get the best assessment."

For more information, contact Mr. Holbrook at DSN 246-2875 or commercial (505) 846-2875.

— Master Sgt. Chuck Roberts