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August 30, 2004

## V CORPS TASK FORCE BOLSTERS IRAQ LEGAL SYSTEM WITH DELIVERY OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND PISTOLS

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**TIKRIT, Iraq** — Officials from V Corps' 1st Infantry Division Task Force Danger delivered computers and printers to judges in the Salah ad Din Province recently in an effort to bolster the judicial system in north-central Iraq.



SGT 1ST CLASS CHUCK JOSEPH Lt. Col. Jeffrey Sinclair, commander of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division, presents a computer monitor to Najim Abed Al Wahid Jalal, chief judge of Salah Ad Din Province, Iraq. The monitor was part of a delivery of computer equipment and pistols to be used by judges in the province to modernize record keeping in the criminal court system and protect themselves against anti-Iraqi forces.

In addition to the computer equipment, the officials brought other items, including pistols that the judges desperately needed.

The judges have great stature in Iraq, said Najim Abed Al Wahid Jalal, chief judge for the province. Unfortunately, the judges are often the targets of those forces that wish to destabilize the nation.

"Anywhere in the world, there are good and bad people," Jalal said through an interpreter.

"Pistols are very important for security, not just in Iraq."

Jalal was also delighted at the thought of modernizing his court system. He said the computers will allow the courts to much more efficiently and help the province to keep track of criminals and criminal proceedings with the computers.

Lt. Col. Stuart Risch, staff judge advocate for Task Force Danger, along with Lt. Col.

Jeffrey Sinclair, commander of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, the unit responsible for the Tikrit area, delivered 13 computers, three printers and four pistols.

They also discussed other security measures that will better protect the courts and its staff.

Since the task force arrived in Iraq, its Soldiers have distributed 120 computers to government agencies, said Maj. James R. McKee, command judge advocate for the task force's 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Risch said was surprised by the level of justice already in place here when he arrived.

Justice was handed out, the courts needed to be updated. Risch said judges used carbon paper to duplicate legal paperwork. Many of the carbon sheets had been used multiple times.

"The computers will significantly increase their efficiency, which will ultimately bring about a fair and equitable judiciary," Risch said. "It will help bring rule of law to Tikrit, Salah ad Din and northern Iraq."

McKee also stressed the importance of the pistols. While most judges here already have security to protect them, some have been assassinated, threatened and targeted by anti-Iraqi forces, he said.

Jalal was thankful for the assistance. He said the court plans to immediately start computer training and logging data into the machines.

"It's a great pleasure to cooperate with the coalition forces to provide security in Iraq,"

he said through an interpreter. "I would like to thank the American people, who are working to help the troops here in Iraq. We have suffered too much under the old regime for 35 years."

