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NEW IRAQ SCHOOL PROJECT GETS UNDER WAY WITH AID OF SOLDIERS FROM V CORPS TASK FORCE

1st Infantry Division release

ASH SHARQAT, Iraq – Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division broke ground May 26th to mark the beginning of construction for a new elementary school building near Kassem Village here.

A bright, clear day dawned on the small cluster of houses 200 kilometers north of Tikrit when Task Force 1-7 kicked off work on the school.



COURTESY 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division hand out school supplies donated by the Hyde Park and Haviland Schools of Hyde Park, N.Y. via Operation I CAN.

Lt. Col. Kyle McClelland, the task force's commander, spoke to students, parents and officials who attended the

ceremony, emphasizing the importance of the role young people and quality education will play in Iraq's future.

Sharqat Mayor, the Honorable Muhsin Khalaf, echoed McClelland's words and extended his appreciation to the task force for their partnership with the community.

The ceremony was followed by a small luncheon provided by the contractor for the new school. During the luncheon, Task Force 1-7 Soldiers distributed school supplies

they to the excited and smiling students. The supplies were donated by friends and relatives in the U.S. via Operation I CAN, a division initiative to provide much-needed supplies to Iraqi schools in the division's area of operations.

The project is expected to be complete by July 1.

