

**Headquarters (Multi National Division) South East  
British Forces Post Office 641**

**PRESS INFORMATION CENTRE**

Telephone 00870 600 322 756

00870763 665 814

Mobile: 00965 9113350

Email: [picbasrah@defencemediaops.co.uk](mailto:picbasrah@defencemediaops.co.uk)

**TV NOTES**

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**IT A'INT ARF WET MUM**

It would be normal to expect that a posting to Southern Iraq would require the purchase of large amounts of factor-30 sun cream to cope with the soaring sun which beats down everyday, also plenty of pairs of beach shorts and sunglasses to wear on the occasional day off.

This was the thinking of the plane load of RAF personnel who arrived in Iraq last night, right in the middle of one of the biggest thunder storms seen in the country for some time. The situation worsened as they approached there home for the next few months, the tented accommodation known as the TDA. Heavy rains had resulted in wide scale flooding of the accommodation and the surrounding area; all hands were at the pumps bailing out the large amounts of water that was threatening to turn the camp into a swimming pool. This work carried on until morning by which time the rains had at last stopped.

The next day saw a massive dry up operation headed up by WOI Andy Pittock from RAF Northolt. This involved the digging of drainage channels around the tents and the setting up of pumps to move the flood water to an area outside the camp, special hoovers were also employed to remove water from inside the tents. This operation took the best part of the day but was successful allowing the RAF personnel to at last remove the umbrellas from over their beds.

**ENDS**

**For more information contact the Press Information Centre at the above number**

**Pictures can be obtained through the London PA and Reuters picture desks.**