

**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

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**DANISH TROOPS DELIVER PRECIOUS GIFT TO IRAQI VILLAGE**

The 1,500 people of Al Hallah in southern Iraq are celebrating after tasting clean water for the first time in years – thanks to an initiative spearheaded by coalition troops.

Danish soldiers serving as part of the UK's 19<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Brigade teamed up with a Norwegian charity to deliver a water purification system to the village, situated close to Al Qurnah on the banks of the River Tigris.

The area is reputed to be the site of the Biblical Garden of Eden, but life in Al Hallah was anything but paradise for children growing up there. Captain Kim Michelsen, a spokesman for the Danish Battalion, said: "Until now they have been forced to drink the brown polluted and foul-tasting water of the Tigris. Now their hardships have come to an end."

The water purification system installed by the Danes and Norwegian Church Aid charity is capable of producing 20,000 cubic metres of clean water every day. It pumps water from the river and purifies it with a mix of chloride and aluminium sulphate, which kills the bacteria living in it.

Al Hallah was identified as a priority for help by the Iraqi-led regional water commission, which is working closely in cooperation with the coalition forces.

Notes for editors:

Attached pictures show

1. Danish soldiers unloading the water purification system from their truck.
2. Children from Al Hallah enjoying fresh water for the first time in years.

Denmark has just over 400 troops serving as part of the UK's 19 Mechanized Brigade. Their Camp Eden headquarters lies just outside Al Qurnah, near the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The Danish battalion also includes around 40 Lithuanian soldiers.

For further information, contact:

Captain Kim Michelsen  
Press and Information Officer

Danish Battalion  
19 Mechanized Brigade  
Tel: 00 45 9710 1550 (after tone dial 8392)

Or

Captain Dennis Abbott  
Media Operations  
19 Mechanized Brigade  
Tel: 00 965 911 3396