

Krab KRONICLE

Vol. 2, Issue 7

Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq

Feb. 13, 2004

Dogs provide extra security for base, mission

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams
Editor

Most people think of secret weapons used in Operation Iraqi Freedom in terms of bullets, guns, aircraft and bombs.

Sometimes the thought of specially-trained elite warriors like the Navy SEAL teams, Marine Force Recon units, Air Force Special Operations or Army Rangers come to mind.

For the men and women of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group, a not-so-secret but little known weapon comes in the form of a nose. A dog's nose.

The military working dogs and handlers attached to the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron make this the largest kennel in the Iraqi Freedom theatre of operations.

They perform various tasks from searches to detection in and around the base.

"The working dog is an invaluable asset because there is no person or machine that does what a working dog does," said



Jacky takes a bite out of the training sleeve on the arm of kennel master Staff Sgt. Christopher Collins, a 17-year military working dog veteran.

Staff Sgt. Adam McLeod, handler.

That statement was echoed by Staff Sgt. Christopher Collins, kennel master.

"Every machine here either overheats or breaks. Our dogs work in mud, sometimes up to their necks," Sergeant Collins said.

"Dogs have more sensitivity than us. They can hear and see better. Sometimes merely seeing a dog at the gate can be a deterrent against people bringing something in that they aren't supposed to," he added.

Sergeant McLeod said the dogs aren't restricted to on-base activities, but serve a multitude of tasks off base.

"Sometimes we'll do joint missions with the Army," Sergeant McLeod said. "Our primary job is to find explosives and improvised explosive devices. We also look for weapons, mortar rounds and all the other stuff they've been shooting at us."

Sergeant Collins, who has 17-years of experience working with dogs, is amazed at some of the things dogs have found on this rotation.

"Occasionally we've found things from remote-control parts, various



Exa, a military working dog for the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, checks a vehicle during a routine inspection recently.

weapons and even missiles," he said.

The road to Iraq as a dog handler is not an easy one. Dog handlers are volunteers who go through a lot of intense training – first in regular security forces work, and then with the dogs at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Some of that field training occurs on-site, like at Kirkuk Air Base.

"We do validation training with explosives here in country to make sure the dogs recognize explosives with a different

See WORKING DOGS Page 3

Decorations



By Capt. Mark Swiatek
506th Air Expeditionary Group
Executive officer

We are coming up on the end of the tour and the exec is writing about medals... must be a "how-to" for your packages and a list of FAQs and editing tips.

Not quite.

In the space of eight hours between Wednesday evening and Thursday morning I received two very different news article attachments in e-mail. One touted two troops for receiving bronze stars for their service in Iraq. The other featured veterans from WWII and Vietnam criticizing today's Army and Air Force for giving medals out like candy.

Some of you may only begin to appreciate how these articles apply to us. For those who haven't already heard through the official grapevine, Blue rotation left approximately 700 medals behind for us to process.

After getting through the first 100 or so, we received word from CENTCOM via the wing that "inflation was alive and well" with regard to writing medals packages. To make a long story short, we were placed in the uncomfortable position of having to enforce standards for packages that weren't in place when the awards were written.

The resulting teeth-gnashing and debates over what is and what is not an appropriate level of recognition for service here has begun to trickle out, which I'm guessing explains how two articles about medals showed up in my inbox.

Where do we stand? Well, it's good



Bronze Star medal

practice to stop listening when someone starts off any conversation with "back when it was hard."

On the other hand, many of the stories behind recent bronze star awards are suspect at best (the article I received highlighted a Senior Master Sergeant's handling of funds in an Army accounting system which said he was unaccustomed...HUA!).

There have been some downright silly things written in medal citations here at Kirkuk as well. For example, a bronze star award for an officer who gallantly served as "bunker commander"... twice.

The emotional baggage that goes along with awards and decorations is understandable. We live in an Air Force that uses stratification for promotion and we are all operating here under austere conditions, paying our dues.

Silver Rotation can make the case that we've had it harder, have done more under more austere conditions, and have embraced the suck better than the preceding two rotations. To sum up the growing sentiment, we deserve recognition, and "if they (Blue, Liberation, HQ) got put in for

bronze stars and V-devices, then we should be as well."

Not quite.

Save your teeth and time (from gnashing and wasting, respectively). The proper context for determining what level of recognition (if any) you or your troops deserve is the one in which you are living, working and getting wet: Silver rotation, 01 Nov 03 - 01 April 04 (give or take), Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

That is, you need to take a look at what other people around you are doing right here and right now. You need not take into account what other rotations have been submitted for (read "submitted for" - does not necessarily mean "awarded to"), what other folks at other bases in the AOR have received (because you are not there and don't know what they've done), what you think your next promotion board will be looking at (including points and checked boxes), nor what you're doing here versus what you'd be doing at home or for that matter, what you've done thus far in your career (expeditionary is a mindset).

When you remove all the extraneous noise, what you're left with is duty. What is it that you have done here, how well have you done it, what is the quality of impact you've had on the mission and the lives and welfare of those around you...?

For some folks, the answers to those simple questions are going to make outstanding citations to accompany any award.

For others, including those who spend inordinate amounts of time figuring out what they deserve...Not quite.



This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of U.S. military services overseas. Contents of the KRAB KRONICLE are not necessarily the views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided

by the public affairs office of this base. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The KRAB KRONICLE accepts stories, photographs and commentaries, which may be submitted to the PA staff at the group headquarters building or can be e-mailed to Jeffrey.Williams@krab.aorcentaf.af.mil

Submission deadline is noon Monday the week before publication. All submissions are edited for content and Air Force journalistic style.

For more information, visit the PA office in the 506th AEG HQ building or call 460-0132.

(Flag is courtesy of Senior Airman Jeffrey Fitzmorris and Senior Master Sgt. Eugene LaDoucer)

Editorial Staff

Col. Daniel Peabody

Commander

Capt. Stan Paregien

Chief, Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams

Editor

WORKING DOGS from Page 1

chemical composition,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua Wickster, trainer.

With training comes care.

Sergeant Wickster said the dogs are fed Science Diet Active food twice each day, with each dog’s portion recommended by the veterinarian.

Medical care on base is often provided by the 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron, as Master Sgt. Johnnie Gandolfo, a medical technician, also serves as a veterinary technician, a job she holds in the civilian world while not deployed with the Washington Air National Guard.

Master Sgt. Deb Alaniz, x-ray technician, has experience working with the dogs.

Sergeant Wickster credits both EMEDS members for their help in keeping the working dog program in good condition.

When it comes to the reasons for getting into the working dog program, each handler is different.

“I got into dogs because



Exa relaxes in her portable kennel after a long work day.



Salan works with Staff Sgt. Joshua Wickster, 506th ESFS working dog trainer during a session recently.

they will be completely honest with you,” said Sergeant Collins, who handled 10 dogs in his career. “There is no deception, like in humans. If you pay attention, they’ll be completely honest to the point that if the dog doesn’t like you, he’ll let you know.”

Staff Sgt. Andrew Bedell and his German Shepard Exa, who has the distinctive habit of crossing her front legs, arrived here in mid-January from McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas.

“I like being by myself, and with the dog, I get the companionship that I need,” the sergeant said. “She is the one who does the work, actually. I just handle the leash and give her the rewards.”

The squadron uses a variety of dogs in its working dog program, with the most commonly used breed being the German Shepherd.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Morrison is the handler for Liz, the seven-year old Labrador who often acts like a movie star when all eyes are on her.

“It’s a little different,” Sergeant Morrison said.

“People tease me a lot about having a lab, but she proved herself on a combat raid recently. She found a modified assault weapon and two 30-round magazines that were hidden in a mattress in a house we raided.”

“With Liz, people can get more hands-on, and the public can learn more from her compared to some of the other dogs,” he added.

Despite the friendliness of some dogs, like Liz, Sergeant Collins points out the fact they are still working dogs and are not personal pets.

“People have to remember that while the dogs are sociable, they still have the job of protecting the handler. You take the risk of getting bitten,” Sergeant Collins said.

Sergeant McLeod said, “You still have to ask before you pet, but Liz is our therapy dog. She just lifts our spirits.”

He described his dog, Salan. “He’s a happy go-lucky dog. He’s not aggressive unless I want him to be.”

The dogs have their own personalities that oftentimes the handlers compare them to

humans.

Sergeant Collins, the kennel master, said, “Dogs are like us. They try to get out of things. If you let them get away with something once, they’ll try that and something else the next time. They are like eight-year old kids.”

“Younger dogs don’t fully understand things they should be doing,” he added. “Veteran dogs test their handler to try to get away with certain things.”

He compared Brit, Senior Airman Thomas McElroy’s two-year old German Shepherd, with Fonda, a six-year old German Shepherd handled by Staff Sgt. Thomas Hentzl.

“Brit is still learning the ropes,” he said. “He’s a good dog with a lot of potential, but he’s at the stage where he’s trying to accomplish tasks he’s still learning. Fonda has been around, so we expect more.”

Sergeant Bedell, who has worked with six dogs in his three-year handling career, said the hardest part of being a handler is having to detach when changing dogs. Other handlers agreed.

“As soon as you get to click as a team, you may be together one to two years and then comes the inevitable – orders,” said Sergeant Collins. “It’s always hard to leave a dog. You understand each other, even if the dog is hard to deal with, because you and the dog are a team. The separating gets hard.”

Despite the occasional parting of ways, Sergeant Haupt believes the biggest benefit to all handlers is, “the unconditional love they will always show for you.”

Base fuels shop supplies energy needs

Story and photo by
Capt. Stan Paregien
Public Affairs officer

They pass gas at all hours of the day and night. You have probably used their services without knowing what they were doing behind the scenes. Yet they do it anyway.

The men and women of the fuels shop keep the lifeblood of the Kirkuk Air Base flowing through their fuel supplies.

They fuel up the war fighters daily. There are 23 airmen working two shifts seven days a week and they are always on call in case something unexpected happens.

Master Sgt. James Alexander, deployed from Minot North Dakota, is the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's fuels manager.

"We support everything here that needs gas. That includes generators, cars, trucks, the A-10 Warthogs, Army helicopters and basically any aircraft that come through here," he said.

"We have night and day shifts that cover all the generators on the base. The generators can go about 12 hours between refueling, depending on the load they are producing at a particular area. That's why different generators run out at different times," said Sergeant Alexander.

"The dining facility also has generators to help with the semi-truck refrigerators," he added.

"Air Expeditionary Force Blue had some problems getting enough fuel, but the Army now delivers to us, and sometimes we actually get too much and we don't have room to store the excess," he said. "We have fuel bladder farms that look like giant pillows and the Iraqi system that has below ground tanks. However, the Iraqi system is for storage only as it has no pumping capability. The Air Force has mobile pumps to siphon the gas out of the Iraqi tanks when required."



Members of the fuels shop stand for a group photo.

Sergeant Alexander said his shop will make sure the fuel accounts are in good shape so the transition to the next rotation happens without a hiccup.

"On an average day we pump around 30,000 gallons of JP-8 fuel for all the aircraft and I talk with our Army suppliers every other day to make sure we are on track. Biggest problem we have is when it rains here, the dikes fill up, and we have to pump water out of the fuel farm," he said.

He said morale is in good shape too. He and the crew built a nice wooden deck on the back of their shop to leave the base better than when they found it. Staying busy with the mission also keeps their minds off being deployed.

"I'm looking forward to going back home. Iraq has not been bad here, just the rain and mud, but returning to Minot...that's cold," Sergeant Alexander concluded.

Redeploying? Remember to stop by supply customer service

By Capt. Todd Coleman
506th ELRS commander

In order to depart the base, PERSCO provides an Outprocessing Checklist which must be coordinated by several base agencies.

One of the units that must be contacted is the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron distribution flight's supply customer service.

Individuals must pick up their weapon stored by the 506th ELRS. Once the weapon is returned to the member they are responsible for its return to home station. Also, once the weapon is returned to the individual, courtesy storage can not be provided while awaiting departure from Kirkuk.

People redeploying must turn in com-

plete Individual Body Armor (IBA). The IBA ensemble includes two gamma protective plates, vest collar, groin protector, vest, and instruction booklet.

Individual Body Armor turn-in and weapon pick up will occur just prior to your departure. Your showtime will be determined by the departure time of the aircraft and your unit deployment manager will let you know what time this will be.

Equipment custodians must transfer the account to a replacement appointed by the commander no later than 10 days prior to redeploying. If a replacement has not been appointed then the commander can sign the account until a new custodian is appointed.

Any other item hand received by supply customer service must be turned in.

Any of the aforementioned items hand received to a group member by Supply Customer Service that have been lost or stolen must be reported as such to unit supervision/leadership immediately. This will enable the proper processes, such as report of survey, law enforcement report, cash collection voucher to take their course.

Group members should not wait until their final out processing to identify missing items. This will delay their departure.

If there are any other items you procured through base supply on a hand receipt, they will need to be turned in prior to departure.

For further information contact Master Sgt. Haycraft at 460-0046 or Master Sgt. Pintaudi at 460-0122.

'First ladies of football' delight Kirkuk crowd

Washington Redskins cheerleaders visit Kirkuk on Armed Forces Entertainment-sponsored tour Feb. 10.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Williams
Editor



Melanie meets Salan, a military working dog.



Erin, Carly and Debbie wait to perform the show's finale Tuesday night.



The Washington Redskins cheerleaders stand together at the conclusion of their show.



Katie signs the bar at the Clamtina.



Melanie smiles for the camera as she prepares to sign an autograph. The cheerleaders signed autographs for an hour and a half after the show.



Members of the Washington Redskins cheerleaders pose for a group photo with an Army sergeant after the show.



The cheerleaders finish their dance routine to 'Hit Me With Your Best Shot' during Tuesday's AFE-sponsored show.



Photo by TSgt. Jeffrey Williams

From left to right: Expeditionary Logistics Captains Mark Snow, Readiness Squadron 506th Air Expeditionary Group finance officer; Romero Reid, 506th AEG/PERSCO; Mark Swiatek, 506th AEG executive officer; and Todd Coleman, 506th commander receive the commissioning oath from Col. Daniel Peabody, 506th AEG commander following Thursday's staff meeting at group headquarters.

Officers promoted, recommissioned

The following officers have been promoted or will be promoted during Air Expeditionary Force Silver rotation.

Major

- | | |
|---|--|
| Todd Coleman
506th ELRS commander | Jack Schillen
506th EMEDS |
| Jonathan Rossow
506th EOSS intelligence officer | Camille Looney
506th EMEDS |
| Romero Reid
506th AEG/PERSCO | George Boughan
506th EMEDS |
| Mark Snow
506th AEG finance officer | Mark Swiatek
506th AEG group staff |

Captain

Heidi Potter
506th AEG protocol officer

1st Lieutenant

Melissa Harris
506th ELRS



Photo by SSgt. Jeffrey Wolfe

Ka-Boom!

Explosions rock Al Fathah Air Field in Iraq, as Army engineers and Air Force EOD personnel work together to detonate a weapons cache. An estimated two-million pounds of explosives were left at the air field making it the largest single weapons cache uncovered by the coalition. 100,000 pounds of explosives are being destroyed per day.

Kirkuk forecast



Weekend Outlook

- Today: Mostly Cloudy Hi 63/Low 48
- Tomorrow: Rain Hi 54/Low 40
- Sunday: Rain Hi 46/Low 36
- Monday: Mostly Cloudy Hi 44/Low 32

Explosive ordnance disposal item of the week

Projectiles

These items can range from small mortar rounds to large artillery shells. The projectiles have many different purposes, ranging from armor piercing to illuminations. The ordnance is explosive and may have a sensitive fusing system. It should not be bothered or tampered with. If you encounter one, mark off the area and immediately contact the EOD team with the location at the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team with the location at 460-1763.



Standings and more

NASCAR Bud Shootout

Daytona
International Speedway
Feb. 8, 2004
Winner: Dale Jarrett (88)

NASCAR Daytona 500

Sunday, Feb. 15, 2004
(8 p.m. Kirkuk local time)

Starting Line Up 1-33

Greg Biffle (16)
Elliott Sadler (38)
Dale Earnhardt Jr. (8)
Sterling Marlin (40)
Tony Stewart (20)
Jimmie Johnson (48)
Jamie McMurray (42)
Mark Martin (6)
Michael Waltrip (15)
Kevin Harvick (29)
Jeff Burton (99)
Matt Kenseth (17)
Bobby LaBonte (18)
Joe Nemechek (01)
Kurt Busch (97)
Ricky Rudd (21)
Brendan Gaughan (77)
Rusty Wallace (2)
Ward Burton (0)
Ryan Newman (12)
Johnny Sauter (30)
Jeremy Mayfield (19)
Dave Blaney (23)
Johnny Benson (09)
Casey Mears (41)
Scott Wimmer (22)
Kasey Kahne (9)
Ricky Craven (32)
John Andretti (1)
Robby Gordon (31)
Dale Jarrett (88)
Kevin LePage (4)
Kyle Petty (45)

This week at the CLAMTINA

Tonight
Jeopardy
Saturday
Bingo
Sunday
Arm Wrestling
Monday
Street Fighter Marathon
Tuesday
Ping Pong Tourney
Wednesday
Spades
Thursday
Karaoke

Warrior of the Week

Staff Sgt. Oscar Hernandez
506th Expeditionary Services Squadron



Photo by TSgt. Jeffrey Williams

Homestation: Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

Arrived: Nov. 8, 2003

Family: Wife - Florencia

Hobbies: Home Improvement projects,
Salsa dancing and gardening

How do you contribute to the mission of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group?

I supervised and maintained the \$85,000 monthly linen service contract for all Air Force personnel, and maintain the base locator system to provide unit first sergeants with accurate information in an emergency.

Lastly, I work directly with the protocol officer for all distinguished visitor arrivals, and stepped-up as an escort for the base laundry service contract.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment?

Having the ability to take a leadership role. The constant challenge to make things better and seeing improvements happen right before my eyes.

What luxury do you miss?

Movie theaters, restaurants, Latin clubs

What food do you miss the most?

Chinese food

Chapel Schedule



Chaplain (Maj.) Peter Lambert and
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Garvey.

Friday
9 a.m.
Catholic Mass
(Sky Soldiers chapel)
Noon
Islamic prayer
7:15 p.m.
Movie & Discussion
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)

Saturday
4 p.m.
Open Ranks Bible Study
Control Tower (EOSS)

5 p.m.
Bible Study
7 p.m.
Catholic Mass
7:30 p.m.
Gospel Service

Sunday
8 a.m.
Gospel Service
9 a.m.
Catholic Mass
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)

10 a.m.
Protestant
11:30 a.m.
Catholic Mass
1 p.m.
Latter-Day Saints
2 p.m.
Catholic Mass
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)
3 p.m.
General Protestant
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)
7 p.m.
Contemporary Service

7 p.m.
Liturgical Service
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)

8 p.m.
Bible Study
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)

Wednesday
7 p.m.
General Protestant
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)

Thursday
7 p.m.
Rite of Christian Initiation for
Adults (RCIA)

8:30 p.m.
Officer's Christian Fellowship
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)

The play "Love, Sex and the
IRS" will be performed this
weekend at the Clamtina.

Commonly used phone numbers

ATOC	460-0038
Base Exchange	460-1622
BDOC	460-1785
Clantina	460-1614
CC Supt. Section	460-0099
CE Cust. Serv.	460-0058
Chaplain	460-0129
Command Chief	460-0052
Command Post	460-0077
COMM Help Desk	460-0000
Contracting	460-0661
Dining Facility	460-0605
EMEDS	460-0802
EOD	460-1763
Fire Department	460-0030
Finance	460-1646
First Sergeant	460-0016
Fitness Center	460-0271
Legal	460-0117
Lodging	460-1744
Logistics Plans	460-0194
OSI	460-0326
PERSCO	460-1625
Public Affairs	460-0131
Protocol	460-0260
Safety	460-0090
Supply	460-0039

For a complete listing of telephone numbers, log onto the intranet site at www.krab.aorcentaf.af.mil/Phonebooks.html

What's Your Sign?

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 22) All that anticipation you had about leaving last month seems to drain away. You are well-rested and back into work mode. Have you made your planned trip to the Post Office to mail stuff home yet?

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 21) It's time to follow-through with that volunteer effort you pledged back in November. Are you a member of the Rising Four? Top Three? Company Grade Officers Council? It's time to put those projects to completion before you leave in a couple weeks.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22) You've got so much to say, but everyone else seems to be in their own worlds and have tuned you out. Don't worry, like you, their thoughts are of home and putting final projects to rest. Be patient, they'll listen soon.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) You're oozing with longing because it's Valentine's Day tomorrow and your thoughts are of being with the one you love. You know desert romances don't last and are already dreaming about next month.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) You get an urge to have your squadron-mates and new found friends over for an end-of-tour party. You are serious in the planning stages but are looking forward to the reunion with friends relaxing in Al Udiad.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Now is not the time to issue ultimatums - you won't win. Try a different approach to get what you want. The secret to success is to help people get what they want. Then they'll give you what you want - an airline ticket home.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 17) There will be tension at home now. Everyone's schedules will conflict because you've changed in the last four months and they also have changed. You are preparing to deal with it gracefully. Your family will help you iron out the rough spots.

Pisces (Feb. 18 - Mar. 19) You have a huge burst of energy and don't know what to do with it. You are looking forward to celebrating your birthday soon. You need a creative outlet, since you are probably experiencing some tension. Find one.

Aries (Mar. 20 - Apr. 19) You are at a turning point in your life. On the outside you're witty, fun and persuasive. Inside you are a nervous wreck because of the loneliness. The secret to combating loneliness is to be around people.

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 19) It is a terribly unpredictable time for you. Is it burnout or anticipation? You decide. You're organized but no amount of preparation can keep you from stressing about sudden and frequent changes in your schedule. Relax over a near-beer and a letter home.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20) While Taurus is busy stressing out, there is not a bit of stress for you Gemini's. You have an intense urge to be close to people you've experienced the rotation with.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21) No matter how hard you try, you're just not one of those nice people right now. You love the hard work and don't plan on letting up. You usually ask for opinions, but are now learning that the knowledge is inside of you. Trust your decisions.

Iraqi Fast Facts

Kirkuk History

Nuzu - landmark

Nuzu is an ancient Mesopotamian city, located southeast of Kirkuk.

Excavation revealed material extending from the prehistoric period to Roman, Parthian and Sasanian periods.

In Akadian times (2334 B.C. to 2154 B.C.) the site was called Gasur, but in the 2nd millennium B.C. the Hurrians of northern Mesopotamia occupied the city and changed its name to Nuzu.

During the 16th and 15th centuries B.C. they built a prosperous community and important administrative center.

More than 4000 cuneiform tablets were discovered at the site, mostly written in Akkadian. They clarified many difficult passages in the contemporary patriarchal narratives of the Book of Genesis.

Eternal Fire - landmark

3- The Eternal Fire in the area called (Baba-Gurgur) there is what is called (Eternal Fire) where the fire from the earth is burning without stop day and night. Nobody knows when this fire started, but we know it is mentioned in the inscribed records of the Sumerians, Babylonians and Assyrians.

Kirkuk in modern times

One of the famous things Kirkuk is known for is the oil. The oil is known in Kirkuk from ancient times.

The Eternal Fire in Baba Gurgur is known in Kirkuk from its early history.

The discovery of oil in vast quantities was the reason for its annexation, as a part of the Wilayet of Mosul to the newly-

created Iraq State in 1921. This was the main reason for Britain to occupy Iraq in 1917.

The Ottoman army, using primitive methods, had extracted oil from Kirkuk for local consumption since 1639.

The systematized and organized exploration of Kirkuk oil field did not start, however, until March 1925.

The Turkish Petroleum Company (TPC), which was established in 1914 in Istanbul, was granted the concession to exploit the oil fields in the Mosul and Baghdad by the Ottoman Empire.

Before the end of 1925 the company, in which Britain had a substantial share, began conducting geological surveys and constructing road and essential buildings.

www.assyriansofkirkuk.com