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The new Army Safety Campaign is part of the road to safety success. Please join us in saving lives! 

*Mr. Fanning is the Senior Safety Manager at the Army Safety Office.*



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## The 68th Chemical Company Provides Shoes for Needy Iraqi Children

*By Sergeant Santiago Rubio*

The 68th Chemical Company would have been content to collect several hundred pairs of shoes for needy Iraqi children. Instead, the unit received donations of more than 5,000 pairs of flip-flops, sandals, and sneakers from people in the United States. And the boxes kept coming!



**Iraqi children in the Al Rashid district of Baghdad pose with a soldier from the 68th.**

The 68th Chemical Company, 1st Cavalry Division, is currently serving in the Al Rashid district of southern Baghdad. The unit initially began the shoe drive when they saw that many Iraqi children had no shoes on their feet. Publicity from the event widened when the Catholic News Service picked up the story. Shoe shipments (and a few monetary donations) from all over the United States began to pour into the unit. The company distributed 1,000

pairs of shoes at the first distribution. According to the executive officer of the 68th, there were so many boxes arriving at the unit, soldiers began distributing the shoes during patrol missions.

This simple, but significant, act of charity has created a bright spot for the 68th Chemical Company during the difficult time of deployment. Even with the hardships that our troops face in Iraq, the faces of the grateful children proved that most of the Iraqi people are appreciative of the peace efforts in their country. 



**Iraqi children crowd around soldiers delivering free footwear.**

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*This article was submitted by the US Central Command Public Affairs Office.*