



Dr. Mahmood and CPT Matthew Pflipsen at the Makhmur Clinic, Iraq



CPT Matthew Pflipsen, physician for the First Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, recently delivered two boxes of medical books to Dr. Mahmood at the medical clinic in Makhmur, Iraq. The books were donated by US physicians and received through Operation Medical Libraries.

Dr. Mahmood and CPT Pflipsen originally met in the spring of 2008, at which time Dr. Mahmood was medical director for the Makhmur clinic. Working together with the local company commanders, they planned and implement joint medical programs to improve the health and healthcare available for the local citizens.

Since then, Dr. Mahmood has moved to Irbil and is now an attending pediatric physician at the main city hospital. Dr. Mahmood frequently has Iraqi medical students rotate with him at the hospital. Dr. Mahmood plans to take the books back to Irbil and distribute them to rotating medical students.

“I am very thankful for our friendship,” Dr. Mahmood said, “And we thank you for the your wonderful gift. We are appreciative of all your help.”

The usefulness of the donation was quickly noted, as the local pharmacist promptly found two pharmacology books he could use.

Operation Medical Libraries, formerly known as UCLA Medical Alumni Association’s Books without Borders, collects used medical texts from medical schools, physicians and other medical professionals in the US and ships them to US military physicians deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. The books are intended to help rebuild those nation’s healthcare system.