



Sgt. Jerad W. Alexander

Djiboutian Army Sgt. Ahmed Kmael Idriss (right) is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Zakaria Sheick Ibrahim, Defense Chief of Staff, Djibouti Army, after completing the camp Leadership Course Oct. 6. The course, which is modeled after the Marine Corps' Corporal's Course, held students of all branches of service including three Djiboutian soldiers.

PORT from page 3

Petty Officer Second Class Timothy Gill added, "One of the men at the library told me how happy he was to see U.S. Navy Sailors in Eritrea again. The local media arrived to gather footage of our visit to the library, and he said it would warm the hearts of the Eritreans to see the work we were

doing on television that night." "This was a very important event for our partnership in the Horn of Africa," said Helland. "This small but significant event will go a very long way to enhance our relationship with the Eritreans and increase the stability of the region."

The *Hopper* deployed from her homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii July 28 and is currently operating

with coalition forces of Task Force-150 in support of the global war on terrorism. Task Force-150 is composed of more than 12 nations that conduct Expanded Maritime Interception Operations in international waters in the 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility. The task forces works closely with the Combined Joint Task force-Horn of Africa to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa's mission is to detect, disrupt and defeat transnational terrorist groups operating in the region and to enhance the long-term stability in the Horn of Africa. The vast majority of which involves working with citizens, governments and security forces in the region to help improve the security, stability and economic opportunity in the Horn of Africa.



Courtesy of RED HORSE

A local Ethiopian villager walks across the newly renovated bridge.

BRIDGE from page 2

ed to be replaced."

During the repairs, the engineers ran short on washers to secure the new boards on the bridge. Although they could have shipped additional washers to the crew, the squadron instead contracted a local blacksmith to manufacture them, which was more beneficial and effective.

The bridge is the first of two projects RED HORSE are building in the area. They are currently working on a corral for local herders.

"We put ourselves out there in the public showing we're here to help," Crocker said. "We are building good community relations with the host nation."

The engineers are expected to complete the corral project later this month.