

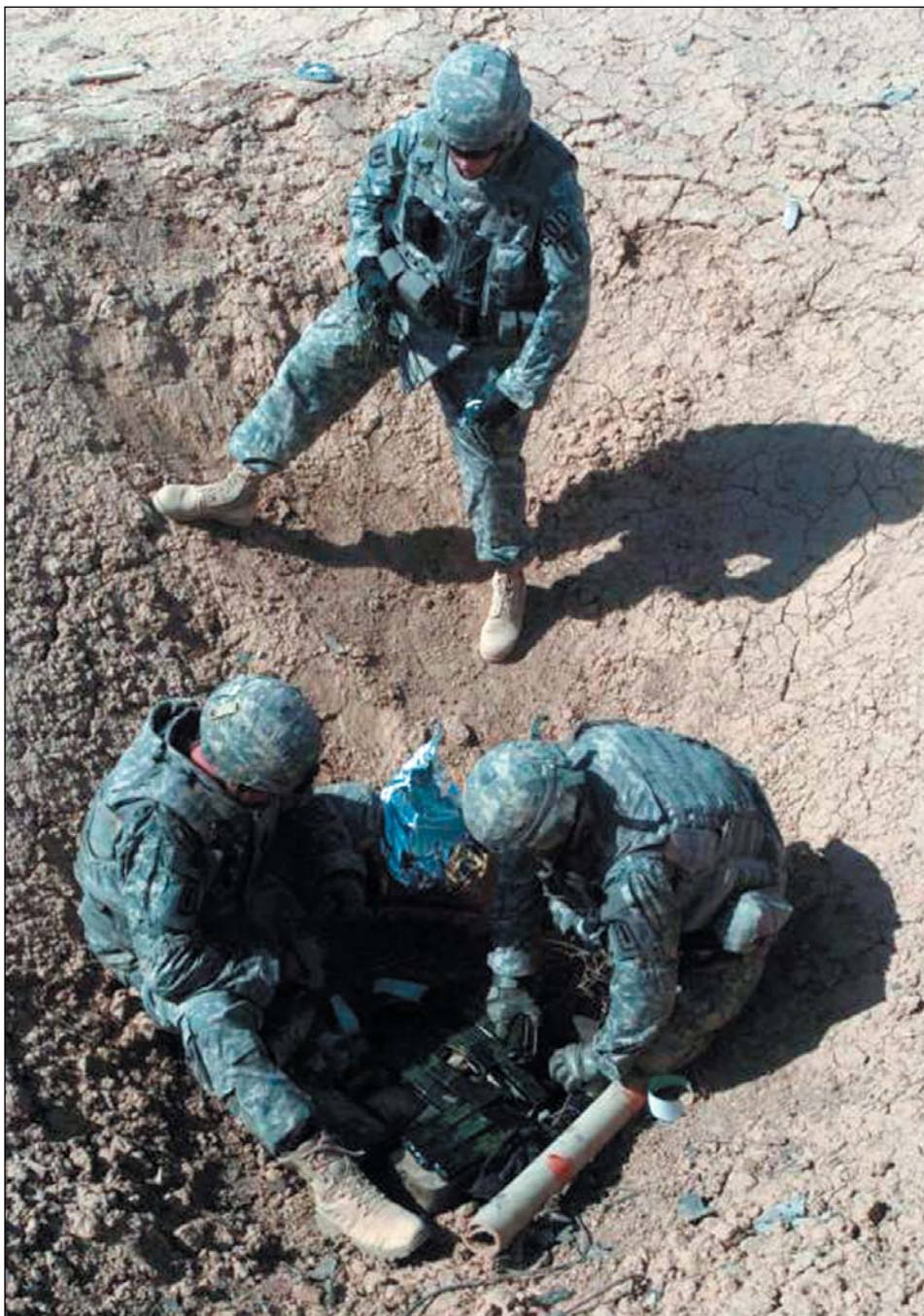
THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

EOD blows up insurgents' plans



Spc. Ben Hutto

Pfc. Nicholas Sullens, 20, 789th Explosive Ordnance Company, places C4 at a disposal site on Rustimayah Range Complex July 2.

SPC. BEN HUTTO

3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV. PAO

FOB HAMMER — Sgt. 1st Class Ed Allbaugh, a platoon sergeant for the 789th Explosive Ordnance Company, cradles the phone between his shoulder and cheek, grabs a pen and paper and goes to work.

“OK, what was that grid coordinate?” he asks.

As he gets the details of an Improvised Explosive Device explosion in the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment’s area of operation, Sgt. 1st Class Choate Smith, from Houston, walks into the room and listens.

Both noncommissioned officers are already formulating a plan before the phone call is finished.

When Allbaugh hangs up, they immediately coordinate.

“This one mine?” asks Allbaugh, from Newark, Ohio.

“Yeah, take the two that got back last night and go,” Smith says.

As Allbaugh gears up and walks out the door, Smith smiles.

“Just another day,” he says with a shrug.

The 789th Explosive Ordnance Co. has been at FOB Hammer for two months, but they have already been involved in 95 incidents involving explosives. They have destroyed or neutralized IEDs, unexploded ordnance, enemy caches, remnants of war and munitions.

“We’ve averaged about one or two incidents a day,” Smith said. “I normally wake up, go the brigade and check intelligence. After that, we are on the go trying to stop the bad guys.”

Capt. Justin Gerken, from Red Wing, Minn., commander of the 789th, said he is thankful for the Soldiers he has.

See EOD, Page 3

3-1 collects weapons, detainees

SGT. NATALIE ROSTEK
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FOB HAMMER, Iraq — Soldiers of 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, and Company D, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, detained five suspected insurgents and found four weapons caches Thursday near Jisr, Diyala.

The operation resulted in the largest cache seizure for the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team since beginning operations southeast of Baghdad.

Unit leaders said Soldiers conducted the five-phase operation to deny enemy sanctuaries and seize caches.

Soldiers from 3-1 Cav. and Co. D, attached to the cavalry regiment, secured and searched four target locations simultaneously during the operation.

Each cache found and destroyed de-



Courtesy photo

A Soldier from Co. D, 1-15th Inf. Regt., attached to 3-1 Cav., stands guard during a raid in Jisr, Diyala.

creases the munitions and improvised explosive device making materials available for insurgents to use against the populace and Coalition Forces, said Capt. Jimmy Hathaway, from Columbus, Ga., commander of Headquarters Troop, 3-1 Cav.

“Ultimately, this mission was a step in the right direction towards making Iraq a more secure and safe region,”

Hathaway said.

“The mission established the standard that Coalition Forces are not going to stand for anti-Coalition Force activity,” said 1st Lt. Donovan Duke, from New Cumberland, Pa., a platoon leader with CCo. D, 1-15th Inf. “We are here to establish a safe environment in cooperation with the Iraqi Security Forces for the Iraqi citizens.”

Operation Bastogne breaks explosives ring in Kalsu

4TH BCT (ABN.), 25TH INF. DIV. PAO

KALSU — Speed, stealth and surprise are key ingredients to any successful combat operation and the Paratroopers and Soldiers from Task Force Steel are perfecting that recipe day in and day out in North Babil.

The Steel task force of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division put those assets to use in the early morning hours of July 1 during Operation Bastogne, a raid near the Chaka III area of North Babil.

“Operation Bastogne was designed

to capture members of an improvised explosive device cell operating along Highway 1 and other roads in the north Babil province,” said Capt. Stew Lindsay, a native of Freport Penn., and commander of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

“This particular area was plagued by improvised explosive devices,” said Capt. James Browning, a native of Waynesboro, N.C., and commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment. “There were four or five IEDs within a kilometer of our objective. We have to operate in this

area day in and day out so we definitely wanted to clean out the area.”

TF Steel started their movement toward Chaka III. Approximately two kilometers away, they dismounted their vehicles and began moving in on foot to maximize the element of surprise.

Once the task force reached their targets, they began a simultaneous raid.

In addition to capturing 10 IED cell members, the operation captured hundreds of rounds of 7.62mm sniper ammunition, IED making materials and an instruction manual on how to construct IEDs.

THE Dog Face Daily

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214th Fires Brigade
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720th Military Police Battalion
Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

EOD: Task Force Marne Soldiers block insurgent bomb-makers' plans

From Page 1

"These guys are, by far, the most intelligent people in the Army, in my opinion," he said.

Gerken said the Soldiers have to score at least a 110 on the Army's GT test just to get that military occupational sociality.

After that, their training has a 60 percent attrition rate.

"We like to think we have the best minds in the Army," Gerken said. "They never deal with the same situation twice. They are very adaptable and think on their feet well. These guys also have a high level of maturity and responsibility. We have staff sergeants rolling up on a site, and they have on-scene command."

The unit's experience is a big asset in handling the stressful scenarios they encounter on a daily basis.

"Just between the senior leadership, we have over 60 years combined experience," Allbaugh said. "We've taught most of the guys under us at AIT (advanced individual training). We are in a small field. We all know one another in some way. I might not know a person, but I probably know someone they work with. It helps that we are so small. Everyone does their job and looks out for one another. It definitely builds a bond within this unit."

The job's challenge is what draws Smith and Allbaugh to the EOD field.

"It is always something different," Allbaugh said. "Very rarely do we do the same thing twice in one day."

Allbaugh said he understands the bomb-makers he is trying to combat are not uneducated hooligans.

"A lot of bomb-makers are college educated engineers," he explained. "They know what they are doing and



Spc. Ben Hutto

Pfc. Nicholas Sullens places C4 on ordnance at a disposal site.

adjust quickly. We have to constantly switch up what we do out here. In this area, they are getting more sophisticated. The better we get at our jobs, the better they have to get to have a chance to defeat us."

Allbaugh said on occasion, bomb-makers target him and his Soldiers.

"They put out secondaries to try and kill our first responders, people like us and the medics. You have to remember, they will watch us a few times to see how we respond and then try to use that to hurt us."

Despite the danger, Allbaugh said he is excited about the job.

"We blew a cache two weeks ago that had 60 ordnance items," he explained. "We got the bomb-maker and confiscated some devices. That was a good day."

As various Soldiers run in and out of

the EOD office getting ready to go out, Gerken takes a moment to reflect on what makes his group special.

"It is really an honor to command a group of Soldiers like this," he said. "These Soldiers volunteered to go out to live IED sites and help prevent them from hurting people. It sounds cool that they get to play with explosives, but really they are about saving people's lives."

Smith, who has been neutralizing explosives for the last 11 years, understands how vital his job is.

"If we make a mistake, we can damage property, equipment, the local infrastructure and, most importantly, lives."

Smith also offers advice to anyone at an IED site when he is working.

"If you see me running, you better catch up," he said.

Safety Thought of the Day Anti-Dust and Sand Measures

- Park vehicles with the engine compartment downwind to shield the engine. Keep all air-cooled surfaces — oil coolers and radiators — free of oil and grease. Always wipe off nozzle before refueling. Blow away loose dust and sand from the

- vehicle's fuel filler opening before removing the cap. Use a clean rag to close off any gaps between the nozzle and the fuel filler opening.
- For tracked vehicles, avoid neutral steering in soft sand — that lets sand build up in the track assembly components and can result

in a thrown track. If the situation allows, make wide turns fast, and keep short turns slow.

- Cover glass surfaces when they're not being used. During dust or sandstorms, use self-clinging plastic film to cover optics between missions.

Headline Highlights

Wrestling riot; falling money; family in freezer

Wrestling tourney ends in riot

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia's national wrestling championship disintegrated into rioting when dozens of angry fans spilled onto the mats and beat up match officials in protest at the result of a bout.

The violence broke out over Thursday's gold medal match in the 84 kg weight class between freestyle world champion Sazhid Sazhidov and European champion Georgy Ketoyev.

It involved fans from neighboring regions in the Caucasus mountains which have a long tradition of ethnic rivalry.

They were furious with a decision to award victory to North Ossetia's Ketoyev over Sazhidov from Dagestan.

The organizers had to call in riot police reinforcements who finally restored order at the 5,000-seat Luzhniki Olympic arena.

Temper between rival ethnic fans had already been boiling after an earlier match featuring Ketoyev and another Dagestani wrestler also ended in a brawl, with the two athletes trading punches in the middle of their bout.

The ill-fated championship, which

originally was scheduled to take place in Vladikavkaz, the capital of North Ossetia, was moved to Moscow after protests from Dagestan officials.

Major international wrestling championships have been marred by fights in the past.

A brawl erupted between spectators, officials, police and competitors in freestyle wrestling after a bout between athletes from Russia and Belarus at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Money falls from sky

BERLIN (Reuters) — A German motorist surprised by euro notes swirling in the air around her car hit the brakes and collected a "substantial amount of money" before turning it over to police, authorities in Worms said on Thursday.

A police spokesman in the small western town said the 24-year-old woman saw the money flying through the air in her rear view mirror late on Wednesday. She pulled over and tried to collect all the notes, unsuccessfully.

When police went to the scene they could not find any more cash.

A spokesman at Worms city hall said police were withholding details on the exact sum and location of the find in the hope of learning more about the money's origin.

Wife, son found in freezer

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — A Belgian man appeared in court on Friday after a woman at his dinner party found the bodies of his wife and stepson in the freezer as she put away the leftovers, prosecutors said.

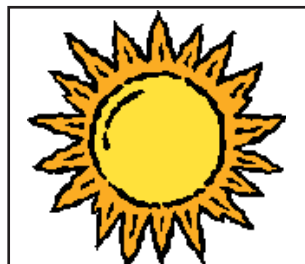
The woman went to the police after discovering the 46-year-old woman and her 11-year-old son and officers arrested the man in the town of Verviers, near Liege in east Belgium, on Wednesday.

"She went to the freezer and that is what she saw. She then alerted the police," said Georges Lahaye of the local public prosecutors' office. Prosecutors want the suspect, aged 43, to be remanded in custody to allow more time for an investigation into the deaths.

Lahaye said the suspect had not made a confession. He added that the couple argued a lot.

Marne Weather Watch

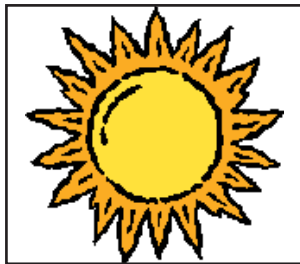
Saturday, July 7



Sunny

Low: 89F/High: 114F

Sunday, July 8



Sunny

Low: 90F/High: 115F

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Who set the bomb? *mih-noo il-lee neh-sub il-kun-boo-leh?*

Sudoku

2								
				2				4
9				6	7			1
		1	2			5	7	
3		5	4		6	8		9
	8	6			9	3		
5			1	3				8
6				9				
								5

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

9	2	4	1	3	5	6	8	7
8	3	6	9	7	2	4	5	1
1	5	7	6	8	4	9	2	3
7	6	2	4	5	1	3	9	8
5	4	1	3	9	8	7	6	2
3	9	8	2	6	7	1	4	5
6	1	5	8	4	3	2	7	9
2	7	9	5	1	6	8	3	4
4	8	3	7	2	9	5	1	6