

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

El Salvador teams up with U.S.

STAFF SGT. CARLOS J. LAZO
TF MARNE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FOB DELTA — A lack of basic needs, such as food, fresh water and shelter can cause hostility and chaos among any population. Once those needs are filled, hostility ebbs and the possibility of peace arises.

For the people of Wasit province, wartime needs are being filled by the soldiers of Cuscatlán Battalion from El Salvador, members of the Coalition Forces.

The battalion's primary mission is to provide humanitarian aid in the city of al Kut and the surrounding province, provide security for logistical convoys and quick reaction force for Forward Operating Base Delta.

"It's good to see the care and admiration that Iraqis have for El Salvadoran soldiers when they see us coming in our vehicles," said Lt. Col. Ernesto Garcia Rivera, civil affairs officer, Cuscatlán Battalion, 8th Rotation.

The battalion's support mission covers an area with about 800,000 people. Most of the aid they provide comes in the form of donations from the United States.

Since 2003, more than 3,000 soldiers from El Salvador have deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Rivera said. This is the eighth rotation of the battalion's troops to Iraq.

"We like to be better than the ones before us," said Rivera, referring to his troops' dedication to the mission. El Salvadoran soldiers work on FOB Delta with Soldiers from other Coalition countries, including Georgian and U.S. forces.

The Salvadorans work with 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., and the 214th Fires

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Courtesy photo

Brig. Gen. Edward Cardon, TF Marne deputy commanding general — support, signs the Najaf 100-Day Plan July 24.

Najaf signs 100-Day Plan

SPC. EMILY J. WILSONCROFT
EDITOR

As time goes by in Iraq, the Coalition Forces' focus on reconstruction grows and progress becomes increasingly visible.

One indication of progress came July 24 when local Iraqi and U.S. leaders signed the Najaf 100-Day Plan, an engagement strategy between Task Force Marne, the provincial reconstruction team and the provincial government designed to help Iraqis achieve economic, security and budgetary goals.

"What we're doing is identifying a few key areas to concentrate on and improve," said Lt. Col. Leo J. Ruth II, 3rd Infantry Division gov-

ernance line of operations chief.

Brig. Gen. Edward Cardon, TF Marne deputy commanding general — support, met with Lance Kinne, acting PRT leader; Abd-al-Hasan al-Abtan, Najaf deputy governor; and Abul Hussein Musah Abud al Musawi, Najaf PC chairman to sign the plan.

The intent of the 100-Day Plan is to encourage local governments to give attention to several specific goals for reconstruction over a short time, rather than take on everything at once.

"We came up with the idea for the plan, but the local governments each chose what they wanted to fo-

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Soldiers share faith through dance, mime

PFC. MONICA K. SMITH
3RD CAB PAO

BAGHDAD – The lights are hazy in the small room where Soldiers practice their routine. Sgt. Marcus Dugar, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, watches the dancers before stopping the music and giving instructions.

"It's really fast, you have to be ready for it," he says as he reviews the moves with three Soldiers. Dugar then goes through the motions while speaking the words to the song. "OK, let's do it again."

These soldiers have found an unconventional outlet for their spiritual convictions and talents in performing arts by creating the group "Praising and Miming is what we do," a mime and praise dance ministry at Camp Striker.

Despite varying work hours, differing schedules and other obligations, these Soldiers make the organization a priority during their deployment.

They create time where there is no time, to gather together twice a week to practice at the 875th Engineer Battalion building next to the 3rd CAB headquarters building.

"I think it's the same reason why everyone else decides to praise dance, mime or sing in church," said Dugar. This is just "another way for us to express how we really feel to the Lord. Visually is the best way to show people."

Praise dance is conveying the message of a song in dance form while mime incorporates more drama and acting into the performance.

"It's an interpretation, it doesn't have to be to a song it can be to a poem or a passage of scripture," said Dugar, "but you have to listen to the words, the song or the poem and you have to physically express what that person is saying. We take the songs and we listen to them and we think, 'OK,



Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Sgt. Marcus Dugar assists Sgt. 1st Class Alma Caudle in the art of applying mime makeup.

we can do something with that."

Dugar first had the vision to begin a mime/praise dance group here during the "Gospel Explosion" in June at the North Morale Welfare and Recreation center.

A mime group from the chapel at Camp Liberty performed a mime piece which triggered Dugar's desire to minister in the same likeness at Camp Striker.

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NAJAF: 100-Day Plan a 'step toward bigger progress' for residents

From Page 1

cus on," Ruth said. "We introduced it to four different areas, and they've been very receptive. Two of them have already signed it: Babil and now Najaf."

The plan should help provincial governments lay the foundation for an effective method of caring for their people, Ruth said.

ple, Ruth said.

"In the near future, we'll be able to implement the provincial development strategies for each area," he said. "The 100-Day Plan is intended to carry them through until then."

The Najaf plan will focus on budget execution and governance, economic development and planning, infrastruc-

ture and essential services, rule of law, training and outreach.

Cardon called the plan a way to take small steps toward bigger progress, a sentiment echoed by Ruth.

"This will ultimately give the governments the capacity to take control," Ruth said. "The sooner they do that, the sooner we can go home."

THE Dog Face Daily

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DANCE: Soldiers form mime team

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"Personally when I saw the (performers) mime at the gospel explosion, it was something I wanted to do here," said Dugar. "Previously, in the rear, it was something I already did at my church, and I didn't know if they did it here or not."

Dugar was not the only person who was inspired by the performance at the "Gospel Explosion." Spc. Joseph Dempsey, member of Headquarters and Support Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, also wanted to be a part of a ministry such as the one he witnessed.

"I didn't even come (to Iraq) expecting to do anything serious," Dempsey said. "I saw (the mime performance) at the 'Gospel Explosion' and I wanted to start. Within a week there were so many people who wanted to be a part of the ministry."

Dugar met Sgt. 1st Class Alma Caudle, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, who led the praise dance: purposeful dancing to worship music.

The group began with four women who praise danced and two men who were interested in mime.

Now the group has more than 12 regular members.

"We're developing teams of maybe three or four, depending on each other's time schedules, which will allow them to coordinate a time and songs to practice," said Dugar. "Then when we get together on Mondays and Thursdays for practice we can make more progress and schedule times for them to minister."

The members bring a range of experience to the group, some coming with years of prior experience in dancing and others who simply wanted to praise God.

Dugar was a dancer for the San Antonio Spurs basketball team and also danced with R&B singer Usher in 2001.

"I haven't (danced) since elementary school," said Capt. Clark Simon, HSC, 603rd ASB. "I have never done something like this. I've always wanted to, they do it at my church, but I never had the time."

The group gathers together people of all talent ranges and allows them to minister in a way they feel called to minister. Upcoming plans include a performance at Camp Liberty July 29, as well as chapel services.

"I just hope it touches hearts, first of all," Simon said. "I hope they can identify with what we're doing. When you're trying to reach people you have to identify with them in order to add to their perspective on life."

"I just hope it touches hearts, first of all."

— Capt. Clark Simon
HSC, 603rd ASB

EL SALVADOR: South Americans troops work with U.S., Iraqis at FOB Delta

From Page 1

Brigade, Fort Sill, Okla., in conducting the civil affairs mission in the province, including the city of al Kut, said Cavalry Col. Victor Manuel Bolanos Carvallo, commander of the Cuscatlán Battalion.

"Everyone has their mission, and there is a mutual respect (among Coalition Forces)," Rivera said. "We are the same in the context of what we are here for. There is no difference, from a soldier from the U.S., Poland, El Salvador, no difference. The technology is different, but the mission is the same and is still accomplished."

As of this month, soldiers with the Cuscatlán Battalion have provided security for 39 convoys and completed 48 civil affairs missions in the area, providing help and support to various communities.

"Our work was always important, we came with knowledge," said Cabo-Dionisio Ceren Ramos, a soldier in the Cuscatlán Battalion. "Here we saw the suffering and a struggle for better just like in our country."

El Salvador underwent a civil war in the 1980s until 1992, when leftist guerrillas and the government signed a cease-fire treaty. The Central American nation has undergone much reconstruction since.

Soldiers came prepared not only for the social relationships they encountered here, but also for the risks that may arise from providing help.

"We received training on convoy security, humanitarian aid training, responding to improvised explosive devices," Rivera said. "When the next rotation comes, we will train them and they will have training and briefings with us."

This will ensure that residents of the Wasit province continue to receive their basic needs.

"It's one of the most important missions," Carvallo said. "We are here fighting an unseen enemy and helping the people."

Safety Thought of the Day

Heat Injury Prevention

- Weak Link Rule: When the first heat casualty occurs, assess the status of the whole unit.
- Heat strain and dehydration can accumulate over several days before causing heat illness; therefore, during recovery periods, emphasize rest, shade, hydration, and eating.
- Drink liquids that contain some added salt or electrolytes for heat cramps.

- Signs of overheating include the inability to work, flushed face, confusion, disorientation and fainting.
- Identify previous heat casualties as they are more susceptible to becoming a heat casualty again.
- If a Soldier is a heat casualty, cooling is first priority- it can reduce mortality from 5-50%.
- Move patient out of the hot environment.

- Provide air conditioning, if available.
- Remove the patient's outer clothing.
- Apply cold packs to the patient's neck, armpits, and groin. Drench torso in water
- Fan vigorously. Aggressive fanning is VERY EFFECTIVE. (Stop if shivering occurs!)
- Start IV with normal saline while awaiting evacuation

Headline Highlights

Machine gun fundraiser; courteous shoplifter

Fundraiser to feature guns

BOSTON (Reuters) — A planned Republican fundraiser in New Hampshire aims to promote gun ownership in America by letting supporters fire powerful military-style weapons — from Uzi submachine guns to M-16 rifles.

The Manchester Republican Committee is inviting party members and their families to a "Machine Gun Shoot" where, for \$25, supporters can spend a day trying out automatic weapons, said organizer Jerry Thibodeau.

"It's a fun day. It's a family day," said Thibodeau of the August 5 event. "It's quite exciting."

Local Democrats say the event is in poor taste amid a spike in violent crime in Manchester and seeks to glorify the use of machine guns for political gain.

"It is downright offensive," Chris Pappas, the Manchester Democratic party chairman, told the Union Leader newspaper.

Thibodeau said he invited all the Republican candidates in the 2008 presidential race to the event at Pelham Fish and Game Club outside of Manchester, the state's largest city, but he said they declined. He said all shooters would undergo training.

Buying a gun in New Hampshire, whose official motto is "Live Free or Die," is relatively easy.

The state does not require buyers to obtain a handgun license or undergo safety training before buying a handgun, according to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, a gun-control lobby group.

Shoplifter leaves address

BERLIN (Reuters) — Police called to investigate a supermarket theft were surprised to discover the culprit had left his contact details with a shop assistant.

The 30-year-old thief, who was born in Liverpool, England, passed a note to the assistant which read in German: "Call the police, I've just stolen," a spokesman for the Nienburg police in Lower Saxony said Thursday.

He left the premises carrying a full bag of shopping in one hand and a pack of toilet paper under his arm.

When officers called at his address, the man admitted his crime. He justified the act by saying he and his pregnant girlfriend were having cashflow problems because of a mistake by the social security office.

"You don't come across criminals like this every day," the spokesman said. "The man wouldn't say why he tipped us off."

Cat senses death

CHICAGO (Reuters) — When Oscar the Cat visits residents of the Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Providence, Rhode Island, the staff jumps into action — Oscar can sense within hours when someone is about to die.

In his two years living in Steere's end-stage dementia unit, Oscar has been at the bedside of more than 25 residents shortly before they died, according to Dr. David Dosa of Brown University in

Providence. He wrote about Oscar in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"It's not that the cat is consistently there first," Dr. Joan Teno, a professor of community health at Brown University, who sees patients in the unit. "But the cat always does manage to make an appearance, and it always seems to be in the last two hours."

Raised at the nursing home since he was a kitten, Oscar often checks in on residents, but when he curls up for a visit, physicians and nursing home staff know it's time to call the family.

"I don't think this is a psychic cat," said Teno. "I think there's probably a biochemical explanation."

While pets are often used to bring comfort to the elderly in nursing home settings, Oscar's talent is special, though not unexpected.

"That is such a cat thing to do," said Thomas Graves, a feline expert and chief of small animal medicine at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.

Graves said there is no evidence to suggest cats can sense death, but he doesn't discount it for a minute.

"Those things are hard to study. I think probably dogs and cats can sense things we can't," he said.

On a particular day detailed by Dr. Dosa, Oscar settled onto the bed of a patient. His presence sent staff off to make calls and set up vigil.

When a grandson asked why the cat was there, his mother explained: "He is here to help Grandma get to heaven," according to Dosa's account.

She died a half an hour later.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Where is the trigger man? *wen il-lee fed-jer il-kun-boo-leh?*