

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne



Photos by Sgt. Ben Brody

Iraqi soldiers sprint from a Black Hawk during a joint air assault mission with 2-502 Infantry Soldiers Dec. 29.



Staff Sgt. Joe Hammond, of Co. B, 2-502 Infantry, leads his squad through a gully during Operation Patriot Strike in Ubaydi Dec. 29

Patriot Strike

Ubaydi assault nets AQI suspects

SGT. BEN BRODY
4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

UBAYDI — Going after al-Qa-eda cell leaders in the Ubaydi farmland 20 miles south of Baghdad, U.S. and Iraqi troops launched a three-pronged assault on the area which netted dozens of detainees, Dec. 29.

Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, and Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor, along with about 200 Iraqi troops, raided houses and searched fields near the Tigris River.

The operation was planned by Task Force 1-76 Field Artillery, part of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

As the sun rose through Ubaydi's date palm groves, four Black Hawks landed in a fury of dust and whipping wind. Soldiers from Co. B poured out, their breath steaming in the cold air as they charged straight for a

small compound purported to be an al-Qa-eda safehouse.

"This is an area where our sources say people are either aligned with al-Qa-eda in Iraq or they've been killed or chased away," said Sgt. 1st Class Lyle Whitted, a platoon sergeant with Co. B. "This is the definition of an AQI-controlled area."

The four helicopters soon returned to deliver more troops to the objective.

After determining that 10 men were either associates or close relatives of known AQI leaders, the Soldiers flew back to drop the detainees off at a holding facility before resuming their mission.

Three of the men detained were found in a spider hole by Iraqi troops.

Approximately half of the force on the ground was Iraqi, showing the local populace that Iraqi troops are a legitimate and viable force, committed to reign-

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HEADQUARTERS
MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS-IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342



December 20, 2007

To the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Civilians of Multi-National Corps-Iraq:

During this holiday season and as we head into the new year, it is important that each of us take time to reflect. Our achievements over the past year have been many and our progress has been significant. In just the last seven months we've seen violence drop from its highest point since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom to levels not seen since the spring of 2005. Our many successes did not come easy, but as a result of great sacrifices in a very tough and complex environment. However, what we collectively accomplished is absolutely phenomenal. You have given the Iraqi people a chance to choose their destiny, and not have it dictated to them by extremists. More importantly, you have provided Iraqis with hope for their future.

Our military is held in the highest esteem across the world because everyone knows that freedom is not free, and that a courageous few ensure it for the masses. When the history books are written on Operation Iraqi Freedom, the surge of 2007 will be its own remarkable and inspiring chapter. You will be a part of that record, celebrated as today's greatest generation of courageous, committed and compassionate warriors.

Our families and loved ones will enjoy this holiday season in peace and harmony because of what you do on a daily basis. You serve in a noble and honorable profession, and it takes a special type of person to willingly accept the risks that go with that choice. Though you are far from home, you only need to look to your immediate left or right to feel the embrace of someone who will treat you like Family. While I realize you will not have a "holiday" per se, take solace in the goodness and importance of our mission, our tremendous teamwork, and know that you are making a huge and positive difference every day. Let us never forget those who died fighting for the ideals of freedom and the right of Iraqis to control their own destiny. Some of the finest men and women from our coalition and the Republic of Iraq have given their lives in support of this noble mission. It is up to all of us to ensure their sacrifices are not in vain. It is an honor to serve in your ranks, and I thank you for your steadfastness, selflessness and exceptional bravery. Best wishes during this holiday season and throughout the new year.

Sincerely,

Raymond T. Odierno
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

*Happy
Holidays!*

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THE Dog Face Daily

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3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division
214th Fires Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

PATRIOT: Assault nets AQI detainees

From Page 1

ing in terrorists. The operation on the southernmost of the three main objectives was planned, led, and executed entirely by Iraqi soldiers, who took 32 detainees that were on their blacklist.

Iraqi Police supported the operation by reinforcing the western cordon, preventing AQI fighters from escaping the targeted area.

Throughout the operation, OH-58D Kiowa helicopters fired rockets on suspected weapons caches. Iraqi soldiers also discovered four 120mm mortar rounds and 80 rounds of 20mm anti-aircraft ammunition.

"This was a combined operation including Coalition Forces, Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police units," said Lt. Col. Dane Barksdale, TF 1-76 commander.

"The purpose was to clear all reported or suspected enemy safehouses, meeting locations, and cache sites in the northern portion of (Area of Operations) Anzio. We detained more than 40 enemy and confiscated or destroyed enemy mortar and anti-aircraft ammunition."

Barksdale added that the initial response of the people in the area has been positive and that they appreciated the operation which helped to secure the people in the area.

"The longer term effect is that the majority of the people in the area are against these enemies of Iraq and there is no place for them to hide because of the partnership that exists between the security forces and the people," he said.

The 2-502nd Inf. Regt. is assigned to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the 2-69 Armor is assigned to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div. Both units are operationally attached to 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.



Photos by Sgt. Ben Brody
An OH-58D Kiowa helicopter from 3-17 Cav., 3rd CAB, fires a 2.75-inch rocket at a cache during Operation Patriot Strike in Ubaydi Dec. 29.



Sgt. Dan Hansen, Co. B, 2-502 Infantry, tests a detainee's hands for explosives residue.



Capt. George Morris, commander of Co. B, 2-502 Infantry, and his Soldiers hit the ground running in the opening salvo of Operation Patriot Strike. Below, Soldiers from Co. B, 2-502 Infantry, secure their landing zone as four Black Hawks roar in to bring troops to their next objective.



Safety Thought of the Day

Environmental Considerations

- Ensure that all hazardous materials and hazardous wastes are stored and labeled properly.
- Ensure that spill kits are within reach when changing or adding vehicle fluids.
- Spill kits should enable the Soldiers to contain a spill on land or in water.
- Ensure that drip pans remain under parked vehicles.
- Ensure that containers are the proper size and type for draining vehicle fluids.
- Make sure that Soldiers know what to do in case of a spill or fire.
- Dispose of hazardous waste in hazmat storage containers. Do not abandon hazardous waste. Dispose of it according to unit/camp SOP.

Headline Highlights

Newlyweds' drag race; women's Tokyo Bay dive

Newlyweds unknowingly caught in drag race

SYDNEY (Reuters) — Australian newlyweds kissing on the backseat of their hired car were unaware their chauffeur was street drag racing, until a police siren broke their romantic bliss and ended the race.

The chauffeur, clocked at up to 130 kph (80 mph) racing a young driver in a rental car, was fingerprinted on the side of the road and the hire car confiscated.

"It's alleged that as the traffic light turned green both the (cars) accelerated harshly from the intersection and continued to travel at speed along the highway," police said in a statement.

Both drivers were taken away by police, while newlyweds John and Laina Tauranga were escorted home in a police car.

Anti-smoking chief breaks ban on Day 1

LISBON (Reuters) — The head of the Portuguese agency responsible for enforcing a new ban on smoking in public was seen lighting up at a New Year party, breaking the law on the first day it came into effect.

Antonio Nunes, president of Portugal's food standards agency, was photographed by the daily *Diario de Noticias* smoking a cigar at a casino on the outskirts of Lisbon.

"If you can handle that sort of cold, you can handle anything ... It makes you feel you can beat anyone."

— Kyoko Hamaguchi
Olympic bronze medallist

Nunes told the daily he was not aware the anti-smoking law, which applies to cafes, restaurants and bars, also included casinos.

But a spokesman for the Ministry of Health said it did.

"We will have to look into what is in the law," Nunes said.

Divers take New Year's plunge into Rome's Tiber

ROME (Reuters) — Three middle-aged men plunged into 2008 with a New Year's Day dive into Rome's chilly Tiber River on Tuesday.

Crowds gathered to watch the 17-metre (52-foot) dive off the picturesque Cavour bridge, a tradition begun more than a half-century ago.

"I hope you all have a wonderful New Year," said one of the divers, addressing onlookers in Italian. He dedicated his plunge to world peace.

"Let's stop all these wars. Everyone should come down to the river with me instead of killing each other. Come on!"

Italy's *Corriere della Sera* said on its Web site that two of the men were aged 40 and the other 56. Two were Italian and the third born in Syria, the report said.

Women grapplers take icy plunge into Tokyo Bay

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japan's top women wrestlers celebrated the start of the 2008 Olympic year by plunging into the icy depths of Tokyo Bay in an extreme training exercise.

Olympic gold medallist Saori Yoshida was among those who participated in the New Year's Day swim sponsored by Tokyo's 2016 Games bid committee, officials said on Wednesday.

"I was really fired up about jumping in," said a shivering Yoshida, who won gold in the women's 55kg freestyle at the 2004 Athens Games. "But it was absolutely freezing!"

Following their icy dip, the women, expected to be among Japan's top medal hopes at this year's Beijing Olympics, warmed themselves up in a nearby hot spa resort.

"If you can handle that sort of cold, you can handle anything," Athens bronze medallist Kyoko Hamaguchi added. "It makes you feel you can beat anyone."

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Do not resist

lett ka-woom