

# BOMB BLITZ

## Air strikes hit more than 40 targets in Arab Jabour

2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — More than 40 targets were hit Jan. 10 after precision air strikes destroyed reported al-Qaeda safehavens in Arab Jabour. Thirty-eight bombs were dropped within the first 10 minutes, with a total tonnage of 40,000 pounds.

The precision air strikes supported Operation Phantom Phoenix, the overarching operation that includes Operation Marne Thunderbolt.

A joint operation between the Air Force and Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division required extensive planning to prevent collateral damage and to prevent the use of any area for attacks into Baghdad and against Coalition Forces.

The Air Force provided two B-1 Bombers and four F-16 fighter jets, aiming at three large target areas. Each bomber passed over twice and the F-16s followed to complete the set. Coordination between the two services

was essential in making the operation a success.

Operation Marne Thunderbolt is an ongoing operation aimed at flushing out remaining al-Qaeda extremists operating in the southern Arab Jabour area, and to create conditions for improved security.

Soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division will join the Iraqi Security Forces and Concerned Local Citizens to continue offensive operations to keep pressure on the enemy.

## Rakkasans help local sheiks, workers form utilities committee

STAFF SGT. TONY M. LINDBACK  
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

CAMP STRIKER — Covering a broad, mainly agricultural area has posed challenges to Rakkasan Soldiers trying to promote economic growth and essential services in their area of operations.

Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 33rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), are partnering with local sheiks and skilled workers to form the Zone Utilities Committee.

Lt. Col. Brian Coppersmith, commander of 1-33rd Cav. Regt., Capt. Toby Jimenez, Troop A commander and 1st Lt. David Bhatta, Troop A fire support officer, both with 1-33rd Cav. Regt., met with members of the newly formed ZUC to find out what essential services projects are top priorities in the area and how to support completion of those projects.



Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback

Lt. Col. Brian Coppersmith, commander of 1-33rd Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT), speaks to members of the Zone Utilities Committee on starting essential services projects south of Baghdad during a meeting in the CMOC at the Radwanayah Palace Complex Jan. 9.

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# Foundation for police station laid in Arab Jabour

SGT. KEVIN STABINSKY  
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — An empty field in Arab Jabour is slated to make history as the area's first police station.

Engineers with Mercury Development Construction visited the proposed site Jan. 7 with Soldiers of the 153rd Military Police Company, Delaware National Guard, for a site survey.

"We're going to take photos and get an idea of the local infrastructure," said Mustafa Al Waeli, senior project manager for Mercury Development. "It will help us draw up an assessment of how to build the station and the cost of project."

Mohammed Al Zuhari, a surveyor, was pleased with the site. Nearby roads will accommodate construction equipment and an electrical transformer allows easy access to electricity.

Two kilometers up the road, there is a water purification plant, Zuhari said, which will provide a way to get potable water to the station. This was the first time the contractors actually put their eyes on the site.

Next, the company will mark off the boundaries of the site, fence it in, and construct a temporary dwelling for site supervisors. These supervisors will oversee the ground leveling of the area and preparations for building the station's foundation, Zuhari said.

The station will build upon the foundation of security already established by Coalition Forces and Concerned Local Citizens in the area. The CLCs, besides providing security for the project, are a pool of potential staff for the future station, said 1st Lt. Daniel DeFlaviis, 153rd MP Co.

Under DeFlaviis' guidance, the



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Sheik Tomah Al Juburi (center), a prominent local sheik, meets with the contractors after the police station site survey Jan. 7 in Arab Jabour.

153rd MP Co. is training the applicants to help prepare them for an Iraqi Police academy.

Waeli said his company has built 45 police stations in Iraq over the past two years, as a subcontractor for Innovative Technical Solutions Incorporated.

Of those, Waeli said he was most proud of work the company did in Al Kut. In that province, the group has built 14 police stations.

They hope to see the same success in Arab Jabour. Although completing the station will take between six and eight months, benefits of the project will begin sooner.

Once construction begins, the company will hire laborers from the local population. Waeli said more than 100 people will be needed for the construction effort, 90 percent of whom will be local residents.

Employment will inject money into the local economy, already seeing growth due to improved security and

small business grants to local merchants to build up their businesses.

Al Zuhari met with Sheik Tomah Al Juburi, a prominent local sheik who has taken an active role in rebuilding Arab Jabour, to discuss hiring steps.

Tomah helped acquire the land, giving it over to the Iraq Ministry of Interior for approval of a police station, DeFlaviis said. Working with Tomah will spread word of the need for laborers once the project begins and help bring out qualified applicants.

The creation of a police force in the area under the jurisdiction of the government of Iraq will also help strengthen ties between the local and central government. The police force will be responsible for security in Arab Jabour and Al Buaytha, DeFlaviis said.

"This has been very successful today," he said. "The great thing about having these gentlemen here is they're helping build the first organized police station."

## THE Dog Face Daily

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## ZUC: Rakkasan Soldiers help local leaders form zone utilities committee



Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback

First Lt. David Bhatta, fire support officer for Troop A, 1-33rd Cav. Regt., speaks to a member of the new ZUC on starting essential services projects during a meeting at the Radwanayah Palace Complex Jan. 9.

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The idea behind the ZUC is to create a committee of professionals who can support an area's needs and work with the government of Iraq. The ZUC is being taught how to work with the GoI so there will be no need for Coalition Forces' involvement in the future.

In the meantime, Troop A is educating local contractors and leaders on how the process works.

"Most of the problem is that they don't understand the contracting process," Bhatta said. "They expect quick results and turn-arounds. If we tell them we're going to clean a canal, they expect us to come back the next day with the money and an approved contractor."

Because the U.S. government and Army have to approve every project, Bhatta said there is a selection process where one of at least three contractors is chosen to complete the job.

Bhatta and his leadership are also learning to navigate contracts in the context of Iraq's tribal nature.

"Ideally we could hire any contractor, like with the United States government, and just say, 'Okay, you're hired, go pave the road.'" Bhatta, from Richmond, Va., said. "But here it's, 'Is the sheik or the tribal leader going to provide security? Are they going to ensure they're going to do the job well? Are they going to make the contractors feel welcomed?' So, that's why we have to tie in all the aspects – the tribe, the government, as well as the contractor."

Troop A spent two days meeting with the ZUC to ascertain the area's needs and the contractors' capabilities. They met near Zaidon at the Concerned Local Citizens Headquarters – West Jan. 8 and in the Civil Military Operations Center at the Radwanayah Palace Complex Jan. 9.

The hope is to complete the highest priority projects within 90 days to prove the ZUC's capability.

After the ZUC proves itself, Troop A plans to showcase their success to the GoI in hopes of transitioning the care of the populace back to the government.

## Safety Thought of the Day

### Battling Complacency

#### Leaders:

- Leader engagement
- Look for trends by reviewing accident reports
- Integrate safety into all operations (Composite Risk Management)
- Recognize personnel for good safety practices
- Safety councils

#### All Soldiers:

- Take responsibility for your actions
- Report all unsafe conditions
- Stop and correct all unsafe acts



## Headline Highlights

# Imported mice; baby rice bags; wheeled corpse

## China scurries to contain mice imported on U.S. flight

BEIJING (Reuters) — The United States, concerned about tainted imports from China, has exported its own batch of potentially harmful goods to Beijing in the form of mice on a flight from Washington, state media said Tuesday.

Chinese inspectors found eight mice, dead and alive, on a United Airlines flight to Beijing after the airline reported the stowaways to local quarantine officials upon landing on Sunday afternoon, Xinhua news agency said.

The report prompted an “emergency team” to rush to the aircraft, Xinhua said, to “put rat poison and mouse traps at every possible corner on the aircraft, including the cockpit.”

“Eight mice, dead and (alive), were found at last ... hidden in pillows,” the agency said.

The surviving mice were sent to labs for testing, it said.

The incident was reported in most newspapers Tuesday, citing experts warning of dozens of fatal viruses that the mice could spread, and the risk of deadly accidents from them chewing through the plane’s wiring and circuits.

“We are taking this matter seriously and have begun a full investigation with the authorities to determine how this happened and ensure it is resolved,” United Airlines said in a statement.

“It would be inappropriate for us to comment further at this stage as the investigation is currently under way.”

China has been rocked by a number

*“People say they have a hard time opening them up and eating the rice.”*

— Naruo Ono, rice shop owner, on gift bags of rice imprinted with newborn babies’ faces

of quality scandals involving food, toys and drugs in recent months, but has repeatedly accused foreign media of biased reporting, while making a point of naming foreign companies it claims have substandard product problems.

## Newborn babies visit relatives as rice bags

TOKYO (Reuters) — Newborn babies in Japan who can’t make it around to visit all their relatives can now send them proxies instead — cuddly bags of rice.

A small rice shop in Fukuoka, southern Japan, has been swamped with orders for “Dakigokochi” rice-filled bags shaped like a bundled baby and printed with the newborn’s face and name.

Each rice bag is tailor-made to weigh as much as the newborn and shaped so the rice fills the bag up. Holding the round-edged bag would feel like holding a real baby.

“Other rice shops sell bags printed with baby photos, but they use regular bags. People say they aren’t good for holding,” said Naruo Ono, owner of the rice shop, Yoshimiya.

“Rice for small babies would be stuck at the bottom of the bag, and the baby’s

photo would be scrunched at the top.”

It is customary in Japan to give people gifts or money on occasions such as births, and the recipient then responds with other gifts, often worth half the amount they received.

The rice bags have made perfect “half-return” gifts, Ono said, although relatives face a dilemma once they are done with the cuddling.

“People say they have a hard time opening them up and eating the rice,” Ono said.

## Men use corpse to get check

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Two New York men wheeled the corpse of their friend around the sidewalks of midtown Manhattan in an office chair in a failed attempt to cash his \$355 Social Security check, police said.

Virgilio Cintron, 66, had died of natural causes when two of his friends, both aged 65, brought him to a check-cashing store in the Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood Tuesday.

“They were trying to pass him off as still being alive,” police spokesman Paul Browne said.

The two suspects left the corpse on the sidewalk while they attempted to cash the check, but the clerk knew Cintron and asked to see him.

The two men promised to bring him right back, but when they went outside to retrieve him a crowd had gathered around the dead man. An on-duty detective who had been eating lunch nearby spotted Cintron and immediately realized he was dead, putting an end to the caper.

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday’s puzzle:

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## ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

One at a time

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