



Serving Task Force Marne

Healthcare comes to Nahrwan residents

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

FOB HAMMER — Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery conducted a tailgate health clinic in three areas within a brick factory compound in Nahrwan Jan. 15.

At the factory, the 489th Civil Affairs Company, a reserve unit out of Knoxville, Tenn., along with medical personnel from Headquarters Battery, 1-10th FA, provided free exams and medication to citizens who live or work in the compound.

According to Capt. Jarred Albright, from Lancaster, Pa., commander of Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, currently attached to the 1-10th FA, Coalition Forces had not visited the brick factory to assess their medical needs. He said that when free health clinics are held in Nahrwan, citizens of the brick factory rarely attend.

See TAILGATE, Page 3



Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Pack, a medic with 489th CA Co., wraps an Iragi boy's arm during a free tailgate health clinic in Nahrwan Jan. 15.

Yusifiyah pump station completion date nears

2ND BCT. 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — Farmers in areas south of Baghdad are beginning to get much-needed water for their fields as the Yusifiyah pump station number one nears completion.

On Jan. 9, the pump station project manager visited the site to assess what else needs to be done to keep the pumps running.

Twelve pumps make up the Yusifiyah pump station; when the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, arrived in June 2007 only four worked. The remaining eight pumps were either beyond repair or parts needed to fix the pumps were not available.

The 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. took the lead in

repairing the pumps. The battalion's leadership identified the station as one of the most important irrigation pump stations in the region. Water is pumped out of the Tigris River and the pumps supply irrigation water between Arab Jabour and Maderiyah, about 15 kilometers south of Arab Jabour.

See YUSIFIYAH, Page 3

On guard at PB Meade



Sgt. Michael Connors

Staff Sqt. David Ortiz, from Chicago, a tank commander with Company D, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, attached to Troop C, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, pops out of his Abrams tank to catch a personal coin from Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, Multi-National Division - Center commander, Jan 16. Ortiz is guarding the front of Patrol Base Meade, located 15 miles southwest of Baghdad in Arab Jabour, which began construction Jan. 15.



ATTENTION!!, ATTENTION!! First IPR for...



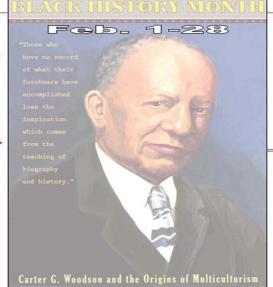
WHO: MND-C Equal Opportunity Office

WHAT: BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

WHERE: MND-C DFAC

WHEN: Feb. 28, 3-4 p.m.

WHY: To solicit support for the upcoming Observance. The MND-C Equal Opportunity Office is looking for VOLUNTEERS who would like to help in building this program. We need people who like to share their talents, Ushers, set up personnel,



FIRST IPR: Jan. 26

Time: 10:30 a.m.

MND-C CHAPEL "Honor Chapel"

Please come by!

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Dog Face Daily

and much more...

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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

TAILGATE: Hammer Soldiers hold health clinic for Nahrwan residents

From Page 1

"We are getting a feel for the area so in the future we can possibly hold one of our full blown med-ops out here," Albright said.

The Soldiers spent approximately 30 minutes at each location in the compound. Brick factory workers, men and women, lined up to be searched and let in to see one of five medical personnel. Some workers brought their children. All patients were covered in black soot from the factory towers.

"Mostly we saw respiratory and skin problems," said Staff Sgt. Willie Sigears, from Springfield, Ill., a medic in Headquarters Battery, "We saw a lot of fungal diseases due to the smoke from the factory."

Medics handed out an assortment of medication primarily consisting of cough syrup and hand cream.

Sgt. Michael Cowan, from Mont Eagle, Tenn., 489th CA, handed out tooth-brushes and toothpaste to patients during the mission.

"They don't have adequate health care in this area," Cowan said. "Especially their dental care is sub-par. By giving them the basic stuff, we are making a difference."



Sgt. Natalie Rostek

Sgt. Michael Cowan, 489th Civil Affairs Co., hands toothbrushes and toothpaste to patients at a free tailgate health clinic in Nahrwan Jan. 15.

YUSIFIYAH: Pump station set to be completed by end of January

From Page 1

"Yusifiyah 1 is an integral part of restoring water to every part of Spartan's (2nd BCT) area of operations," said 1st Lt. Sam Clegg, Yusifiyah 1 project manager. "By repairing Yusifiyah 1 we are helping all the Iraqi people of AO Spartan"

Right now Iraq is in its rainy season and irrigation is not as needed. However, once summer heat returns, irrigation water is vital to Iraq's farming regions.

Iraqi contractors are working to repair and install new pumps, funded by the commander's emergency response program.

The work is supported by the Iraq Ministry of Irrigation.

Clegg said the pumps should be working by the end of January.

"It has been a long process getting this facility repaired," he said. "But now the end is in sight, and we are excited to finish the work and get the entire station up and running."

Safety Thought of the Day

MRAP vs. Humvee

Differences in operation and handling

- The size and weight may reduce the capability to traverse certain terrain.
- Max cross country speed for CAT I and CAT II MRAP vehicles is 12-15mph.
- MRAP requires a 20-ton bridge classification in order to cross.
- MRAP poses a greater risk of roller over when negotiating side slopes.
- Minimal size recovery equipment needed to recover a disabled MRAP.

- MRAP can tow like vehicles.
- MRAP requires a wrecker with a 20-ton capability.
- Driver's blind spots
- Impact the height has on loading and unloading or egress
- Rhino height is much higher than M1114 and precaution should be taken while driving in local traffic.

Soldiers must understand the MRAP limitations and emergency egress procedures.

Headline Highlights

Smoking ban rejection; no clown decorations

Germans puff on as smoking ban fizzles

BERLIN (Reuters) — Photographer Frank Blum puffed contentedly on a hand-rolled cigarette in a cafe in central Berlin, blatantly ignoring a ban that went into effect in most of Germany this month.

"I'm smoking because no one's stopping me," Blum, 43, said from behind his laptop, one of a dozen customers happily smoking without fear. "The cafes aren't making it difficult."

Blum is just one of many disobeying a law banning smoking in public places — cafes, bars, restaurants and night clubs — in force in Berlin and 11 other German states from January 1.

"My friends and I only go to places that let us smoke," said Lena Reuster, a 24-year-old economics student surrounded by a cloud of her own smoke. "When we go out we want our beer and cigarettes. It doesn't really matter until July."

The changes left only four of Germany's 16 states — Saxony, Rheinland-Palatinate, Saarland and Thuringia — with no ban. However, they plan to become smoke-free by July.

In the city-state of Berlin, the nonsmoking bill issued by the Department of Health and Consumer Protection made police and proprietors responsible for enforcing the ban. They face fines up to 1,000 euros (\$1,500) for violations.

Anyone now lighting up inside a public place is, in theory, risking a 100-euro fine, even though Berlin decided not to collect any fines until after a six-

month transition period.

Berlin police have not responded to complaints about renegade smokers and are by and large letting cafe and bar owners decide whether customers can smoke or not.

"The smoking ban has taken effect but, during the transition period, it is not considered important," said Berlin police spokeswoman Birit Koenigsmann. "We're not sure what will happen from July but right now it's not a top priority."

Newspapers are full of stories from both sides of the ashtray.

The mass-circulation newspaper Bild reported that Gerhard Gruenberg, a Berlin pub owner, received two black eyes from an angry customer who rejected his request to smoke outside.

Some smokers in the town of Frankfurt on Oder on Germany's eastern border, who face the state of Brandenburg's even stricter regulations on smoking, have been crossing the border into Poland to puff in bars where there is no ban.

In Czech Republic border towns, tobacco addicts from Bavaria and Saxony have been filling the smoke-filled taverns, according to news reports in both countries.

One smoker in Hesse, where the ban took effect in October, caused a stir by selling t-shirts bearing a yellow Star of David and the word "smoker" in the center, comparing the treatment of smokers to that of Jews under the Nazis.

"It's brainless and tasteless for smokers to use the Holocaust in such a primitive fashion," said Dieter Graumann, deputy president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

At the St. Oberholz cafe in Berlin where Blum and others were merrily puffing away the air was full of stale smoke.

Manager Gerard Janssen, 40, said there was no point in following the rules if no one else was.

"We banned smoking for the first week of January but when we realized other cafes in the area were still allowing it, we did too," he said. "We decided to give our patrons the opportunity to smoke again."

Don't send in the clowns

LONDON (Reuters) — Bad news for Coco and Blinko — children don't like clowns and even older kids are scared of them.

The news that will no doubt have clowns shedding tears was revealed in a poll of youngsters by researchers from the University of Sheffield who were examining how to improve the decor of hospital children's wards.

The study, reported in the Nursing Standard magazine, found all the 250 patients aged between four and 16 they quizzed disliked the use of clowns, with even the older ones finding them scary.

"As adults we make assumptions about what works for children," said Penny Curtis, a senior lecturer in research at the university.

"We found that clowns are universally disliked by children. Some found them quite frightening and unknowable."

S u d o k u

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Get me your ID

en-teeny how-wee-tek