

Pump station opens near Jisr Diyala

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

FOB HAMMER — Soldiers and leaders of 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment attended the grand opening of a water pump station Jan. 15 in the Umm Al-Bid village, near Jisr Diyala.

Water production from the new pump station will provide 10 times more water to the Jisr Diyala and Nahrwan areas than before, according to Sgt. 1st Class Daniel McInnis, a 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team staff NCO.

"Before the pump station, people would get five to six hours of water per week," said McInnis, from Binghamton, N.Y. "Now people get 20 hours of water per day on average."

McInnis said Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces had conducted very few security operations in Umm Al-bid and security threats made it difficult to complete projects to strengthen the village's economy.

"We identified the project when we first got to the area in April (2007)," said Maj. Andrew Koloski, from Juneau, Alaska, executive officer for the 3-1 Cav. Regt. "We were only working on it for the past 90 days, but it took a while for the planning and to achieve the security necessary to begin construction."

Since the arrival of the 3rd HBCT to the Mada'in Qada, the brigade's area of operation, insurgent activity has significantly decreased, Koloski said. Since establishing a Concerned Local Citizens group in October, violence has dropped, resulting in the completion of the project.

Koloski said the project was primarily Iraqi-run. The Mada'in Qada and Jisr Diyala leaders made signif-



Photos courtesy of 3-1 Cav. Regt.

The chief engineer for the construction company that fixed the water pumps gives a tour of a new water pump station after a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 15 in Umm Al-Bid, a village near Jisr Diyala, Iraq.

icant contributions to the project.

"The horizontal pump station represents a culmination of a lot of effort on the part of the Government of Iraq, Coalition Forces and Iraqi citizens," Koloski said. "Water is the life blood of any society; especially in the desert. This pump station greatly enhances the availability of irrigation in the area."

Mushen Nasser, mayor of the Mada'in Qada, the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team's area of operation, cuts a ribbon to officially open the pump station.



Tax season is upon us — are you ready?

MND-C STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE OFFICE

It's that time of year again — tax season! It's the time when we pull together our financial documents, print our W-2s from "Mypay" (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>) and file our tax returns.

The only decision you have to make is whether to file now or wait until you redeploy.

Under the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act, deployed Soldiers receive an automatic 180-day extension to file their taxes upon redeployment.

Additionally, you get a day-for-day credit added to the extension for every day you were deployed from Jan. 1 to April 15. For example, a Soldier who deployed April 1, 2007, would have 195 days from redeployment to file his or her taxes (180 plus 15). However, filing earlier means one less thing to worry about after redeploying and a faster refund check. If you decide to forgo the extension, the Office of the Staff Judge



Advocate can help you file your taxes while deployed, or we can help your spouse file taxes from home station.

The Marne tax centers are located at Camp Victory, Camp Striker and Forward Operating Base Hammer. Each tax center will provide free tax prepara-

tion services for Soldiers and free electronic filing of federal tax returns.

Additionally, the tax centers will help you complete your state tax return. Contact your unit Staff Judge Advocate office for the location and hours of operation of the tax center nearest you.

If your spouse is filing your taxes back at home station, the IRS requires a specific power of attorney which is available at in the legal assistance office or online at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f2848.pdf. This POA does not need to be notarized, simply signed by you and two witnesses. Your spouse will need that POA to complete your taxes.

No matter where you file your taxes, you need to bring all necessary documents with you to the tax center.

These documents include: W-2 for all wages received, military ID, and IRS Power of Attorney (if applicable). Unless you are filing a 1040EZ, you will also need your federal and state tax returns from tax year 2006.

New decision-making council forms in Yusufiyah, Abu Farris

PVT. CHRISTOPHER McKENNA
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV.

PB WARRIOR KEEP — A meeting held at Patrol Base Dragon Jan. 21 discussed plans for a decision-making and maintenance council in Yusufiyah and Abu Farris.

"Right now there is no representation from the Iraqi government in this region, but there needs to be a municipal function that operates here," said Capt. Thomas Goettke, command-

er of Company D, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

The plan is to gather a pool of 150 workers to complete local projects for the area's improvement.

The workers have to be competent and capable of doing the projects, said Capt. Jason Shultz, Co. B commander.

"What projects are deemed priority will be em-

phasized by the council," Shultz said.

Salaries for the council positions are under consideration and a small budget will be involved for projects.

"Creating this council shows progress in the area with a basic government structure," Shultz said. "When other areas of Iraq see the success, perhaps they will realize it's a good idea (and will) follow suit."

The council expressed a desire to meet with people

from around the region to determine what the area needs most.

"This is your area and your people, the fact that you want to meet with people and bring them to the meetings and get their ideas is exactly what we are looking for," Shultz said.

The main thing is that everyone contributes to the good of the community, Goettke said. "Individual selflessness is something that must be emphasized."

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Editorial Staff

Managing Editor — Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Editor/Design — Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

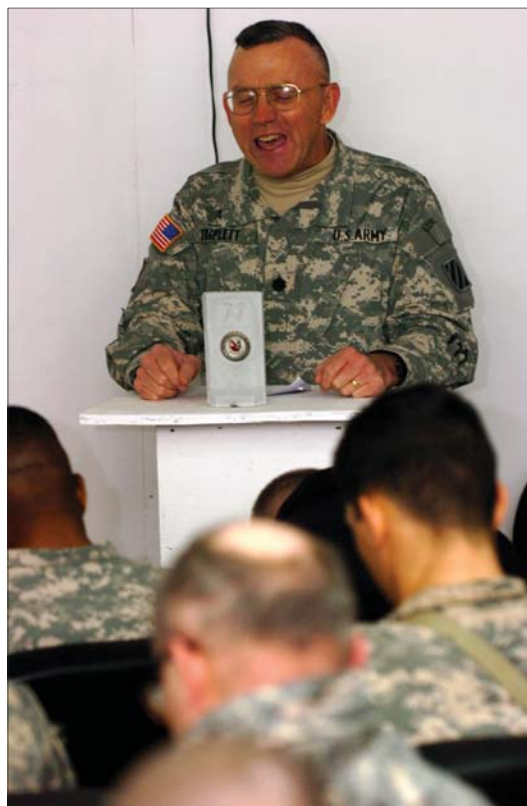
Contributing Units

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Abn. Division (Assault)
4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division
214th Fires Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Chapel dedication



Lt. Col. Aaron T. Walter (left), commander of the 479th Engineer Battalion, and 479th Eng. Bn. Command Sgt. Maj. John M. Dobranski, open the doors after the ribbon-cutting of the Alamo Sapper Chapel at Camp Striker Jan. 23. At right, 3rd Infantry Division Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Harlon Triplett leads Soldiers in prayer in the chapel during its dedication ceremony.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

Safety Thought of the Day

Rollovers

- Rollovers occur due to the following:
 - Speed too fast for conditions
 - Road conditions are unknown or disregarded
 - Driver inexperience
 - Failure to enforce standards
- Mitigation measures:
 - Speeds adjusted for conditions
 - Remain clear of road edges and drop-offs; be cognizant of canal bank weaknesses
 - Know vehicle handling characteristics
 - Use Crew Coordination (talk with each other)
 - Enforce standards and follow good TTPs
 - Use Composite Risk Management
- Crews:
 - Practice rollover drills every day — this has saved lives
 - Wear seatbelts and gunner harnesses
 - Use combat locks
 - Use the HEAT trainer to build rote & muscle memory
 - Practice escape and rescue procedures
 - Secure all cargo
 - Avoid panic maneuvers & know handling characteristics



File photos

Headline Highlights

Longer soap opera skirts; haggis-ban lobby

Longer skirts for airline soap

BANGKOK (Reuters) — The producer of a sexy Thai soap opera about young air hostesses promised longer skirts and fewer catfights Tuesday after real flight attendants complained the show was sexist and should be yanked from the airwaves.

The makers of "The War of Angels," which portrays stewardesses fighting for the attention of male pilots at a fictional airline, apologized to staff at national carrier Thai Airways who said the show was demeaning.

"There won't be any more catfight scenes between flight attendants while they are on duty or in uniform in public," Takonkiet Viravan, managing director of production house Exact, told a packed news conference. "The skirts our actresses wear are not shorter than those worn by hostesses at other international airlines. But we will make our skirts longer," he said.

Airline staffers had complained that the fictional flight attendants wore a too-revealing skirt cut above the knee with a front slit. The airline's union complained to the Culture Ministry on Tuesday that the prime time show, which has a PG-13 rating, insulted its members and demanded the show be dropped from an army-run television channel.

"Such distortions could mislead society, especially youths, to misunderstand or hate people in this profession in every airline, including Thai Airways," acting union president Somsak Srinual said in a statement.

Ministry officials said they had no

authority to force the producer or the television channel to scrap the show, but would bring all sides to a Friday meeting to resolve the dispute. Exact said it was willing to talk to the union, but pulling the show would violate "the rights of television producers."

"This soap opera does not encourage people to have an affair. Our message is — faithfulness to your partner will help the family survive," director Nipon Pewnane told reporters.

Couple to sue over video

BEIJING (Reuters) — An incensed Chinese couple, videotaped hugging and kissing on a subway platform, plan to sue the subway's operator after the video was uploaded to Youtube and other Web sites, attracting thousands of hits.

The three-minute video of the couple in their 20s was shot in September and uploaded to Youtube and Chinese video-sharing Web sites last week, Tuesday's China Daily reported, citing a local newspaper. It drew more than 15,000 hits in two days, it said.

"A mocking voice can be heard in the background of the video. It has extremely embarrassed the couple," the paper said.

The couple had hired a lawyer in the interests "of all passengers traveling on metro trains in Shanghai," the paper quoted the unnamed man in the video as saying.

"Now every time I walk into a metro station I feel uncomfortable," he said.

The subway's operator, Shanghai Metro Operation Co Ltd, was inves-

tigating and had promised "severe punishment" if employees were found to have misused the video, the paper said. Authorities have credited the installation of hundreds of thousands of closed-circuit security cameras in large Chinese cities for helping to reduce crime in recent years. But Chinese legal experts and scholars have called for more robust privacy legislation to regulate the use of video footage and impose penalties on its abuse.

Haggis ban an offal burden?

LONDON (Reuters) — Scotland is considering lobbying the United States to lift a ban on haggis, hoping to boost sales of the sheep-stomach-based national dish.

The U.S. banned imports of Scottish haggis after Britain's outbreak of mad cow disease, which is linked to the human brain illness Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. Scotland's government insist its haggis — which usually contains the heart, liver and lungs wrapped inside a sheep's stomach lining — is safe and wants the ban lifted.

"The Scottish government will consider engaging the U.S. government on its haggis import ban ... It is safe or we wouldn't eat it here," said a spokeswoman. "We think there is a large market for it amongst expatriate Scots."

Haggis, a globally recognized symbol of Scotland alongside bagpipes, kilts and Scotch whisky, is an essential part of Burns night celebrations, which commemorate national poet Robert Burns and fall on January 25. Burns was the author of "Ode to a Haggis."

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		2			9	4	3	
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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

What type of weapons do they have?

shih-noo hih-yeh il-es-li
Hah il-lee AAed-hoom?