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Serving Task Force Marne

Salman Pak leaders work to revitalize local hospital

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

FOB HAMMER — Work is underway in Salman Pak to revitalize a hospital which has not been fully operational for approximately five years.

On Feb. 4, Soldiers and leaders from 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, and Team 915 of Company A, 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, from Knoxville, Tenn., currently attached to 1-15 Inf. Regt., visited the hospital.

Maj. John Wolfe, from Scottsboro, Ala., a 489th CA team leader, said the National Police had used the facility as a headquarters and barracks since 2005.

"The National Police were forced by circumstance to work out of the hospital and other key facilities," said Maj. Cliff Faulkner, from Silverton, Colo., commander of Co. A, 489th CA. "Now that security has improved, they can give physical possession of key infrastructure back to local residents."

Wolfe said the first step to revitalizing the hospital was negotiating with the city council to relocate the NP from the building. The next step is establishing community access to the hospital.

Several council leaders, a leader of the Sons of Iraq (SoI) and maintenance representatives led the tour through the hospital's cold, dark halls.

Wolfe believes Coalition Forces and Iraqi leaders can restore the hospital to full operation.

The facility has 70 patient beds, hematology laboratory, surgical room, birthing center, male and female patient accom-

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Sgt. Natalie Rostek

Staff Sgt. Matthew Jemison, Headquarters Company, 1-15th Inf. Regt., talks to two members of the Sons of Iraq outside a hospital in Salman Pak Feb. 4, as his leaders tour the inside of the building.

3rd HBCT finds more caches in Mada'in Qada

Spc. BEN HUTTO

3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — Three separate caches were found and destroyed by Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team in the Mada'in Qada Feb. 2.

Soldiers from the 789th Ordnance Company (EOD), from Ft. Benning, Ga., currently attached to the 3rd HBCT, were on hand to dispose of all three caches.

Munitions were discovered by Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, currently attached to the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, in a cache site near al Arifyah, a small village southeast of Baghdad.

The 3rd National Police Battalion provided security for the cache until EOD arrived to dispose of it.

"This was a joint effort by both Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces," said Spc. Bobby Oakley, from Newport News, Va., with Company D. "Both elements provided overwatch on the cache while awaiting EOD's assistance. This demonstrates the National Police's ability and willingness to coordinate efforts to secure the area."

EOD performed a controlled detonation at the site to reduce the cache size and transported the remaining ordnance to a disposal site.

The cache consisted of 13 122 mm Russian high-explosive projectiles, 31 80 mm Russian smoke grenades, nine 500-pound bombs of unknown origin, six 57 mm Iraqi high-explosive projectiles and two 82 mm Chinese mortar rounds.

Hours later, Soldiers in Battery A,



Spc. Ben Hutto

A Soldier in the 789th Ord. Co. (EOD) prepares an insurgent cache for controlled detonation at a remote location near al Arifyah.

1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery were directed to a cache location near Sabbah Nissan by the Sons of Iraq.

"The Sons of Iraq and the Sabbah Nissan Council continue to provide tips concerning hidden weapons caches," said Capt. Chas Cannon, Battery A commander. "This is the tenth cache of weapons that they have led Coalition Forces to since the inception of the program. These efforts continue to remove potentially dangerous munitions from towns and villages and make it safer for both the local Iraqi people and Coalition Forces."

During a four-hour period, Company A, 1-15 Inf. Regt. Soldiers working in

tandem with the Sons of Iraq, located and neutralized four improvised explosive devices, near Zelig, a small village near Salman Pak.

Maj. David Fivecoat, from Delaware, Ohio, 3rd HBCT operations officer, is pleased with progress in the Mada'in Qada.

"Over a two-day period, the Sons of Iraq, National Police and the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team worked together to eliminate IEDs and caches from their neighborhoods," Fivecoat said. "These small events are another indicator of the progress in the security situation in the Qada. Iraqis are increasingly working to secure themselves."

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214th Fires Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

HOSPITAL: Work now underway at new Salman Pak medical facility

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modations, a café, laundry facility and emergency and ambulatory services.

If the facility returns to former capacity, jobs will be available for doctors, nurses, pediatricians and other medical professionals.

"Past insecurity and sectarian violence kept many medical professionals away," Faulkner said. "We are optimistic that the improved security and stability will permit the return of these professionals and essential services."

According to Capt. Jason Carney, from Knoxville, Tenn., a 489th CA team leader, changes have been made since the NP vacated the facility.

The SoI took over security for the hospital and approximately three doc-

tors see patients daily, from morning to early afternoon.

"Doctors and patients are still leery to stay overnight," Carney said.

Wolfe said the Iraqi Ministry of Health is helping fund health facility improvements. The hospital in Salman Pak has already used funds to purchase water pipes and porcelain sinks.

"Now we just need to get the people to understand that the hospital is open," Wolfe said.

Lt. Col. Jack Marr, from Minneapolis, 1-15th Inf. Regt. commander; Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Moore, from Waverly Hall, Ga.; Capt. William Clark, from Prairie Du Chien, Wis., Company A, 1-15 Inf. Regt. commander; and other battalion leaders attended the hospital tour.



Sgt.. Natalie Rostek

Capt. William Clark, commander of Co. A, 1-15th Inf. Regt., looks through the operating room during a tour of a new hospital in Salman Pak, Feb. 4.

3-7th Infantry detains 14 suspected AQI in Khidr

4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — Soldiers detained 14 suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq members in the Hanaswa region of Khidr over the course of three days, Jan. 30 – Feb. 1.

On Jan. 30, Soldiers from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, conducted Operation Jedburgh 1 to capture remaining AQI members in the region.

Within three hours of the raid, nine

targets were captured and detained.

The raid came a month after an initial push was conducted into Kidhr to disrupt AQI. That operation established Patrol Base Kelsey to bring a security presence to the area.

"The residents are cooperating with us and giving us the bad guys," said Staff Sgt. Parrish Smith, 3-7 Inf. Reggt.. "It was good to see results after all of the hard work."

The next day, members of Company A, 3-7th Inf. Regt. detained four more

suspected AQI members near Jurf as Sakhr. On Feb. 1, Company C captured an additional suspect for a total of 14 detainees. Intelligence authorities from the unit credited local citizens for the information leading to the captures.

"Recently, citizens have identified AQI insurgents attempting to re-infiltrate the area," said Capt. James Fournier, military intelligence officer, 3-7 Inf. Regt. "People in this area are showing that they will not allow this area to return to the way it was."

Safety Thought of the Day

Artillery Powder Burning

- Do not fire unused powder increments!
- Ensure proper fire fighting equipment and personnel are present.
 - Store unused powder no less than 40 feet from the nearest weapon until it can be burned.
- Proper procedures for burning powder:
 - Select a burning site 200 feet from grass, loose debris, personnel, and equipment.
 - Determine wind direction and arrange the powder to burn into the wind.
 - Place charge increments in a single layer row,

not more than 12 inches wide.

- During winds of more than 25 knots, burn no more than 10 powder increments at a time.
- Pre-burn an area 15 feet long and perpendicular to the down wind end of the charge increments.
- Burning creates a very large flash and smoke plume. If you are in a tactical environment, ensure burning of powder does not compromise the camouflage and concealment of your location.
- For more information see FM 6-50 and TM 9-2350-314-10.

Headline Highlights

China nurses' bill of rights; Romania train stunt

Nurses get bill of rights

BEIJING (Reuters) — China published rules on Monday guarding the rights of its nurses, seeking to give them protection against sometimes violent attacks by angry patients or their families.

Disputes between patients and hospitals are common in China, so much so that the health ministry recorded about 10,000 attacks on hospital staff in 2006 alone, according to state media.

The order by the State Council, or cabinet, stipulates that anyone who impedes nurses from performing their duties or who insults, threatens or assaults them, "must be punished according to the law," the official Xinhua news agency said.

The rules, which take effect on May 12, also better define nurses' responsibilities and clarify the requirements for becoming a licensed nurse, it said.

"Nurses are an important component of the medical force and their work is closely tied to medical security and people's health," Xinhua quoted an unnamed official with the cabinet's legal affairs office as saying. "It is very important to attract qualified staff to this sector."

The cabinet also demanded that hospitals hire enough full-time nurses instead of relying on part-time ones, and that local governments improve their salaries and working conditions.

The end of cradle-to-grave health care and lax supervision have contributed to widespread complaints about overcharging, bogus treatments and corruption in hospitals — with nurses

often bearing the brunt of any frustration among patients.

Doctors and nurses at a hospital in eastern Jiangsu province said after a spate of assaults last year that they would use police truncheons and wear helmets to protect themselves.

In November, more than 200 nurses signed a petition after a local female official in the central province of Henan and her sister confined four nurses for more than five hours, accusing them of being responsible for the death of her brother-in-law, a cancer patient.

The nurses had changed the patient's bed sheets, which the women believed had led to his death, state media said.

Drunken Aussie threatens Brisbane with TV remote

CANBERRA (Reuters) — A drunken man's threat to blow up half a city with his television remote control forced Australian police to declare a state of emergency at a luxury golf resort, a local court heard on Thursday.

Geoffrey Martin Fryatt, 57, a resident of the Fairways Golf and Lifestyle Retreat in Brisbane, was arrested by elite paramilitary police after terrifying neighbours with a knife and threatening to detonate a store of chemicals with the TV remote.

"One push of the button will blow up half of Brisbane," Fryatt shouted in the standoff last May before police in the Queensland state capital opened fire with rubber bullets.

Fryatt's lawyer told the Brisbane District Court that his client lost control after losing much of his life savings in a fraud carried out by his finance

broker, local media said.

"People are genuinely scared of sudden explosions," the judge said, sentencing Fryatt to a year's probation. "Frightening members of the public with threats of bombs and bomb hoaxes has a much greater impact than it once did," she said.

Fryatt accepted probation, but said he was concerned it could interrupt plans to travel overseas to do humanitarian aid work, the Brisbane Times newspaper reported.

"Let's get you right before we send you off to a third world country," the judge said.

Train stunt kills engineer

BUCHAREST (Reuters) — A Romanian train driver leapt aboard a runaway engine to stop it after having left the brake off in a station but was killed when the stunt backfired, railway police said Wednesday.

Ioan Colceriu, 55, was at a train station in the central town of Odorheiu Secuiesc, when he realized he had forgotten some papers in the station office. He went to fetch them but forgot to put the hand brake on the engine.

When the engine moved off without him, the driver flagged down a taxi and chased it for six km (3.7 miles) before catching up with it.

He jumped aboard the moving engine but slipped and fell under its wheels, railway police said.

The engine traveled another 26 km until it was stopped by rail workers. "If you panic, you pay with your life," railway police officer Constantin Nut told Reuters.

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

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