



Capt. Allison Flannigan

Mohel Abdella Mohammed, a local veterinarian, prepares a vaccine for a sheep during a veterinary visit in Yusufiyah Feb. 5. Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers facilitated the visit to promote growth for the area's farming industry.

IA, Rakkasans organize VETCAP

CAPT. ALLISON FLANNIGAN
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

CAMP STRIKER — Rakkasans worked with Iraqi Army troops to conduct a veterinary operation in Yusufiyah Feb. 5.

Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st

Airborne Division (Air Assault) and their IA counterparts arranged a veterinarian visit at a local sheik's house.

Mohel Abdella Mohammed, a local female veterinarian, treated more than 120 cows and sheep with the Soldiers' help. Mohel vaccinated the animals for Clostridium chauvoei, commonly known as Blackleg, a fatal bacterial infection common in cows and sheep.

Mohel completed her degree at Baghdad University in 1988 and has practiced veterinary medicine for more than 20 years.

She said she was excited about working with Soldiers to vaccinate animals in her town and hopes to conduct more of these visits to offer medical treat-

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Leaders meet to plan future ops

SPC. BEN HUTTO
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — Iraqi and Coalition forces leaders met with Iraqi civic leaders from the Mada'in Qada at FOB Hammer Feb. 6 to plan future operations and discuss progress in the Qada.

Leaders from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team and the Iraqi 3rd Bri-

gade, 1st National Police Division welcomed Maj. David Sulkhanishvili, commander of the 13th Light Infantry Battalion, 1st Georgian Army Brigade at the meeting.

"I feel we are ready to take Salman Pak to the next level," said Col. Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr., 3rd HBCT commander. "We have met with

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Spc. Ben Hutto

Col. Wayne W. Grigsby listens as Brig. Gen. Adnan speaks with leaders of the Mada'in Qada and ISF leaders at a meeting at FOB Hammer Feb. 6.

Whenever you fight the law, the law will win

CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) TRIPLETT
MND-C CHAPLAIN

Way back in 1965, when I was 11 years old, a guy named Bobby Fuller wrote a popular song that has haunted me ever since the first time I heard it.

It is not a theological song, but it contains a tremendous amount of theology if you listen to it and reflect upon the meaning of its words.

The first two lines of the song are: "Breaking rocks in the hot sun, I fought the law and the law won." The song is about a man who broke the law ("robbing people with a six gun"), got caught, and lost, big time, winding up in prison for a long, long time.

Whenever I hear this song or think about it, I am reminded of the 10 Commandments found in Exodus 20.

These are irrefutable, non-nego-

tiable laws recognized by most major religions, given to us by God through Moses for our own good.

They are not meant to spoil our fun, or to throw a wet blanket on our pursuit of happiness, but to guide us, and by following them we can prevent 90 percent of the problems we usually cause for ourselves and liberate us from the pain we cause ourselves when we sin against God and against each other.

In fact, obeying the 10 Commandments can actually give us more personal freedom because they provide us with guidelines and parameters to stay in as we live our lives keeping us out of the danger zone of sin.

If you disobey the 10 Commandments, you will eventually lose.

Trying to fight or disobey the 10 Commandments is like trying to fight gravity or like arguing with a stop sign.

It just doesn't work; you will lose in the end.

A popular saying among pilots is "Take-offs are optional, but landings are mandatory." What goes up must come down.

Gravity makes this saying true. The law of gravity can be your friend or it can be your enemy. The last words of most rednecks consist of the words, "Hey y'all, watch this!" Then comes their demise because they break some law of gravity or physics.

Breaking God's laws often end in our demise morally or ethically and can eventually ruin our lives completely.

I think we should all try to adhere more closely to the life giving law that God provides for us in the 10 Commandments.

After all, "Thou Shalt Not" is not a bad thing.

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VETCAP: Iraqi Army, Rakkasans hold veterinary clinic in Yusufiyah

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ment to other farming communities.

Sheik Khudaur, who hosted the vet visit, talked with Mohel about the health of his tribe's animals and said he was pleased to hear that they were all generally healthy.

"We try to tailor our missions to the needs of the tribe. The Abu Alush tribe depends on agriculture and farming," said 1st Lt. Casey Zimmerman, from Santa Barbara, Calif., platoon leader for 3rd Platoon. Keeping animals healthy boosts their production value and enhances the farming industry's role in tribal economics.

Pittsburgh, Penn., native Capt. Michael Starz, commander of Company C, said the vet visit was particularly beneficial because they were able to employ a local profes-

sional. The event also had a positive impact on the economy because the vaccinations were locally purchased.

Pfc. Andrew Finney, from Philadelphia, Company C, said events like this vet visit are very useful because they strengthen bonds between the local populace and Coalition Forces.

Following the vaccinations, the Soldiers joined Sheik Khudaur at his home. Finney said the sheik is a good leader who cares about the well-being of his tribe and is always helpful and hospitable to Soldiers.

"This, just sitting here, is the most beneficial thing we do. Just sitting and talking breeds a mutual respect," Finney said. "The more we learn about their culture, the more we respect them and the more they respect us for learning about them."



Capt. Allison Flannigan

A Yusufiyah man prepares his cow for vaccination during a veterinary visit in Yusufiyah Feb. 5.

MEETING

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the leaders there and they are ready to welcome back the government and to make that city the premier resort location here in the Mada'in Qada."

Grigsby said he and local leaders felt it was time to remove security measures (roadblocks, checkpoints and sandbags) from the streets to help local perceptions of the area's security.

Brig. Gen. Adnan, the Mada'in Qada district police chief, was pleased with the progress Iraqi Security Forces have made in the area.

"Families are coming back to their homes," Adnan said. "People come to the local police with their problems and are not afraid to talk with them."

Abu Bahar, mayor of the Mada'in Qada, praised the contributions Coalition forces and ISF have made in securing the Qada.

"All of the improvements we have made have been possible because the

security forces have worked to get us back where we were," Abu Bahar said. "History will show how you helped the people of the Mada'in Qada through a dark time. My hope now is that life will be better in Salman Pak very soon."

"We have a lot of momentum right now, but there is still a lot of work left to do," Grigsby said. "If you look at where we have come from since we had our first meeting 11 months ago, it is incredible. Together we will continue to make life better here and build on the progress we have made."

Safety Thought of the Day

Signal Kit Safety

- These kits were originally designed to be used by downed aircrew as a distress signaling device and are now also being used as an escalation of force (EOF) deterrent by U.S. forces in theater.
- The projector (pen-flare launcher) should not be loaded until immediately before firing.
- If a signal flare cartridge is loaded into the projector and is not fired immediately, it should be returned to the bandoleer.
- Signal flare cartridge should be inspected

periodically to ensure that they are not dented or otherwise damaged.

- If the signal flare cartridge fails to fire, pull the trigger screw back to the bottom of the firing slot against the force of the spring and lift your thumb quickly.
- When removing a misfired cartridge, ensure that you keep it pointed in a safe direction.
- When firing the projector, care should be taken to never point toward the body of the user.

Headline Highlights

Paper planes in space; no shuttlecocks in India

Japan scientists make paper planes for space

KASHIWA CITY, Japan (Reuters) — A spacecraft made of folded paper zooming through the skies may sound far-fetched, but Japanese scientists plan to launch paper planes from the International Space Station to see if they make it back to Earth.

On Wednesday the University of Tokyo researchers tested small, origami planes made of special paper for 30 seconds in 250 degrees Celsius (482 F) heat and wind at seven times the speed of sound. The planes survived the wind tunnel test intact.

The theory is that paper craft, being much lighter than space shuttles, may escape the worst of the friction and heat that much heavier space shuttles face on re-entry to the atmosphere.

"Paper planes are extremely light so they slow down when the air is thin and can gradually descend," said Shinji Suzuki, a professor of aerospace engineering.

Suzuki said the technology might one day be used for unmanned spacecraft.

The team has asked a Japanese astronaut to release the 20 cm (8 inches) long planes, made from paper chemically treated to resist heat and water, from the space station.

It will take several months for the craft to reach Earth and there is no way to predict their landing spot if they make it, Suzuki said.

"It's going to be the space version of a message in a bottle. It will be great if someone picks one up," he said. "We are thinking of writing messages on the

planes saying 'if found, please contact us' in a couple of languages."

Age no barrier for sexagenarian horseman

TOKYO (Reuters) — A 66-year-old equestrian rider is poised to become Japan's oldest Olympic representative when he climbs in the saddle at this year's Beijing Games.

Hiroshi Hoketsu, who turns 67 next month, last took part in an Olympics at the 1964 Tokyo Games where he finished 40th in the show jumping event.

At 67, Hoketsu would beat the previous record age for a Japanese Olympian set by fellow equestrian Kikuko Inoue, who was 63 when she rode at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

"It is more than likely Mr Hoketsu will take part in Beijing," the Japan Equestrian Federation's Azusa Kitano told Reuters on Thursday.

"He will be in the team dressage. He hasn't been at an Olympics since 1964, which was 44 years ago, but he has continued riding all this time."

The oldest Olympian was Swedish shooter Oscar Swahn who won his sixth Olympic medal at the 1920 Antwerp Games at the age of 72 years and 280 days.

The youngest athlete to participate at the Olympics was Greek gymnast Dimitrios Loundras, who competed in the 1896 Athens Olympics. He was 10.

The German-based Hoketsu, who switched from show jumping to the less physically demanding dressage in his 30s, was selected for Japan's team for the Seoul Games 20 years ago.

However, he opted not to take part

because of quarantine problems with his horse.

Hoketsu even has a fair chance of participating in the individual competitions on his horse Whisper if he can maintain his top-100 international ranking.

No shuttlecocks! India cancels national camp

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — India have scrapped a training camp for this month's Thomas and Uber Cup qualifiers because of a lack of shuttlecocks, badminton officials said Thursday.

The federation sent home over 30 players due to start training on Thursday, blaming the state-run Sports Authority of India (SAI) for not supplying the stock or allowing them to import.

The qualifiers are due to be staged in Vietnamese capital Ho Chi Minh from February 19-24. India, who qualified for the Thomas Cup finals last time, are in Group C with Japan and Pakistan.

"It is a very lackadaisical attitude," Badminton Association of India (BAI) president V.K.Verma told Reuters on Thursday. "They're supposed to provide shuttles, but are doing the game a great disfavour."

"We can't have our 30 best shuttlers, juniors and seniors, twiddling their thumbs with only five tournaments left to qualify for the Olympics."

Verma said the state agency had not even done the initial paperwork on a request forwarded six weeks ago.

The SAI chief Ratan Watal told the Times of India that supplies would be made soon and that bird flu in China was hindering imports.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

North

shih-mal