

Women's group holds inaugural meeting in Hawr Rajab

SGT. LUIS DELGADILLO
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — Leaders of the newly-formed group sat before colleagues, government officials, community and Coalition leaders, but the audience they addressed was much larger; what some would even consider the backbone of their community.

The first meeting of Hawr Rajab's Women's Committee began Feb. 7 with a press conference at the Hawr Rajab boy's school and a discussion of topics vital to the community's welfare.

If the orators were nervous, they did not show it, as one by one they began to stump for their cause.

As a collective hush enveloped the audience, more than 200 women and young girls eagerly listened to what the guest speakers had to say.

Manar Fahdil Salman, a lawyer who grew up in Hawr Rajab, one of eight speakers, sat poised and ready to take up the cause.

"This message is for the entire world. We need to show them that we have rules. We need to help side-by-side with the men to help our city be safe. This can't be done with one hand, all of us need to help," Salman said.

Salman and her fellow women's group leaders expressed gratitude for the increased security in their respective regions and recognized the need to focus on the future.



Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Second Lt. Cynthia Peters (center), speaks with a curious participant during the first-ever Hawr Rajab Women's Committee meeting Feb. 7.

"Women in this area are looking for training. They are looking for special skills and training to help them provide for their communities," she said.

Salman said when al-Qaeda extremists moved into the region more than two years ago, many of the men in the community were killed.

This resulted in a number of families being left without their traditional 'head of household.' It also forced widows to rely on extended family for basic needs.

With cooperation between Coalition forces, Sons of Iraq, Iraqi Security Forces and Iraqi government officials, security in Hawr Rajab has become a much-welcomed reality.

In a show of support for the Women's Committee, Rashid District Chairman Yaqoub Yousif Bekhaty said the committee would encourage women to participate in the political process.

Having seen examples of this for-

ward thinking in other parts of Iraq, members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division's embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team women's affairs group brainstormed ways to get the ball rolling in Hawr Rajab. However, it was the initiative of local women that allowed the organization to take root.

As the newly-appointed women's affairs representative, 2nd Lt. Cynthia Peters, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., said she has great hopes for the group's future.

Peters said she gained a better understanding of issues facing women in Hawr Rajab by attending the meeting.

While the Hawr Rajab Women's Committee currently has no facility from which to work, its members are not discouraged. Instead they have found new support from their communities and are gaining their political voice.

Cody presents awards, re-enlists MND-C Soldiers

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
EDITOR

CAMP VICTORY — Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Dick Cody visited Camp Victory Feb. 11 to present awards to nine Multi-National Division – Center Soldiers and to re-enlist 206 Soldiers and two Airmen.

“Nothing touches me more than being able to pin on combat valorous awards and to re-enlist Soldiers in a combat zone,” Cody said. “I consider it an honor and a privilege.”

The ceremony, held in Al Faw Palace, included service members from all areas of MND-C’s battle space.

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, MND-C commander, addressed the Soldiers briefly.

“As I tell you all the time, you have a choice as an adult: you can either read history or you can make history,” he said, “and right here, right now, we’re making history.”

“There are heroes among us,” he continued. “Three of you are going to be awarded the Silver Star, four of you the Bronze Star Medal with a V device, and two of you the Purple Heart.”

Before presenting the awards, Cody took a few moments to talk about the character of the recipients.

“We all need to reflect, as these young Soldiers come forward who earned these Silver Stars and Bronze Stars and Purple Hearts – they’re part of us,” he said. “They’ve taken that same oath of office. They follow our Warrior Ethos of ‘Mission first, I’ll never quit, I’ll never accept defeat, and I’ll never leave a fallen comrade.’ They didn’t want to earn these awards, no one does, but in combat, when the situation dictated,



Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Dick Cody stands with the 206 Soldiers and two Airmen who re-enlisted in a ceremony held Feb. 11 at Al Faw Palace. Cody administered the oath of enlistment at the ceremony.

they put their own life behind that of their brothers or sisters, and went forward and did these valorous acts.”

The Soldiers receiving the Silver Star were 1st Lt. Ross C. Pixler and Staff Sgt. John J. Zamarripa, both of Company A, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and Sgt. 1st Class. Jose R. Rodriguez, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div.

Soldiers receiving the Bronze Star Medal with Valor were Staff Sgt. Paul McQuown and Sgt. Donald Dedmon, both of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Inf. Div.; Sgt. Michael D. Clark, Co. B, 3-69 Armor; and Spc. Jacob I. Schryver, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3-69 Armor.

The two Soldiers awarded the Purple Heart were Sgt. 1st Class Christopher

Mills, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div.; and Sgt. Allanroy Froa, Company F, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

“This is an award for every single one of the Soldiers who were out there and who can’t come home,” Pixler said of his Silver Star.

Rodriguez shared his sentiments.

“I think everybody who was (at the scene of the incident) should have received some kind of award,” he said. “If it wasn’t for them, I wouldn’t have done the things I did, and they would have done exactly the same things for me; they did a couple of times.”

“If I had my way, everybody from the unit would be here, getting either the same or even better awards than me,” he added. “We gotta look out for

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THE Dog Face Daily

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4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
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Grand opening



Sgt. Jason Stadel

Sergeants major from Multi-National Division-Center and Iraqi Security Forces cut the ceremonial ribbon at the grand opening of the Task Force Marne NCO Academy at Forward Operating Base Kalsu Feb. 12. From left to right: NCO Academy commandant Sgt. Major Henry Knox, 8th Iraqi Army Division Command Sergeant Major Rahdi, Multi-National Forces-Iraq Command Sergeant Major Marvin Hill, 6th Iraqi Army Division Command Sergeant Major Adel and MND-C Command Sergeant Major Jesse L. Andrews Jr.

CEREMONY

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each other; it's a family."

Preparing to administer the oath of enlistment, Cody turned his attention to the 208 faces before him.

"For those of you who are re-enlisting in a combat zone: some cynics would say you're doing it for the tax-free

money," he said. "But I've been around Soldiers too long. Soldiers don't re-enlist in a combat zone for dollars. They re-enlist because they want to stay with their outfit. They re-enlist because they trust each other, and they don't want to leave their brothers- and sisters-in-arms. They re-enlist because they know they're making a difference.

In the generations to come, Cody added, many people will think back on

the Global War on Terrorism and wonder if they contributed enough to its effort.

"You'll never have to worry about that," he told the Soldiers and Airmen. "You'll know you made a difference. And each one of you will wear the distinct combat patch of your division. You'll be forever known as veterans of the strongest army in the world. I'm damn proud of you."

Safety Thought of the Day

Unmarked Fuel/Water Cans

- Unmarked cans can compromise a mission and render a vehicle/equipment NMC at a critical moment when seconds count.
- Small amounts of water in a fuel tank can cause an engine not to start or function properly.
- Fuel mistaken for water could cause

injury to personnel or add fuel to a fire.

- Ensure all cans are marked to eliminate the guess work of what's really in the can.
- Never store fuel and water together.
- Leaders — enforce proper marking of fuel/water cans.

Headline Highlights

Bringing donkey back; high-altitude pilots' pill?**Village wants to bring back the donkey**

LONDON (Reuters) — What does one do when modern transport can't get the shopping to the front door?

The village of Chalford has decided to take a page from its past by employing donkeys to haul groceries to homes atop a slope so steep that cars can't get to them.

"There's about 30 houses that don't have car access so everyone who lives there has this long, winding, torturous path to climb," resident Anna Osborne told Reuters, describing the 328-foot hill.

Osborne is now raising money to buy village donkeys, plans to keep them on her land and to organise volunteers who will guide them up the hill when locals have heavy loads to carry.

Older residents may find the sight conjures up distant memories of the past when donkeys delivering coal and provisions to remote hillside cottages were a common sight.

"They were very much a part of village life," said Osborne of Chalford's donkey past. "It's touching a note with people, bringing back traditions of the past."

The village has already purchased special panniers in anticipation of the arrival of the donkeys. Osborne said she needed to raise enough money to buy two donkeys — as one would get lonely — and says they can cost up to 600 pounds each.

The hills in the local area, known as the Cotswolds, may literally be a pain in the back for some Chalford villagers,

but for others they are a thrill.

The Cotswolds is also home to the centuries-old annual cheese-rolling contest in which competitors hurl themselves at great speed down a hill in hot pursuit of a wheel of Double Gloucester.

Mexican city mulls paying police to lose weight

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) — The central Mexican city of Aguascalientes is considering paying a cash bonus to local police who slim down, amid the increasingly common sight of overweight officers in Mexico.

Aguascalientes city hall plans to decide next week on whether to pay 100 pesos for every 2.2 pounds that officers lose, a police spokesman said.

"We do have some fat officers. We have been encouraging them for a while to lose weight, to be more agile, to do sport," he added.

Pill could boost pilots

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — A drug used to treat impotence could help Israeli fighter pilots operate at high altitude, the Israeli military's official magazine reported in its latest issue.

It said a retired general plans to present to the air force the results of a study he conducted on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania where he found that tadalafil, the active ingredient in Cialis tablets, improved breathing in a thin atmosphere.

"The study's findings justify the continuation of tests with drugs of this

type in low oxygen environments," an unnamed air force officer told Bamahaneh, the military's weekly magazine.

An army spokeswoman said that there were no plans to use any such drug and a statement said the phenomenon of chronic oxygen starvation experienced by mountaineers and the immediate oxygen starvation which pilots suffer at high altitude are different.

"(Because of the different circumstances) there is no significance for medical treatment of any drug for pilots in the Israel Air Force ... and it has no intention of using any form of drug," the statement read.

Body-builders pluck stranded car from ditch

BERLIN (Reuters) — A group of 10 body-builders from a German gym took a break from their normal training routine to help a driver whose car was stuck in a ditch, police said on Monday.

The men were training at the Explosives fitness studio in Bad Zwischenahn near the western city of Oldenburg when the 38-year-old driver lost control of his vehicle, veered into a meadow and plunged the front of his car into the six-foot-deep ditch.

"They dropped their sweat towels and water bottles and ran over the road to the crash site," a police spokesman told Reuters. "They then heaved the car out. It only took them a few minutes."

The grateful driver joined the men at the fitness studio bar and treated them to a round of energy drinks, the police spokesman said.

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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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