

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Rakkasans, IA uncover hidden weapons

SGT. 1ST CLASS KERENSA HARDY
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

CAMP STRIKER — Local citizens gave information to Iraqi Army and U.S. Soldiers that removed hazardous materials off the streets near Janabi Village and Qarghuli Feb. 22.

The Iron Rakkasans of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), uncovered numerous weapons caches with their IA counterparts in the past week.

"The capture of 11 caches this week is the strongest indicator that the Iraqi Army is mastering the principles of counterinsurgency," said Capt. Michael Starz, commander of Co. C, 3-187th Inf. Regt.

Iraqi Army Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division turned over a cache from the Qarghuli area that contained various mortar and artillery rounds, rocket-propelled grenade components and rounds, rockets, more than 2,200 pounds of unknown bulk explosives, bulk ammunition and an improvised explosive device.

Later in the day, a local citizen led Company C Soldiers to a site in the Janabi Village vicinity.

Seven cases of propellant, 15 rockets, mortar rounds, more than 300 rounds of ammunition and four bags of home-made explosives were found, among other items.



Courtesy photo

Iraqi Army Soldiers from 4/4/6th IA Division discuss a towed gun mount found in a weapons cache Feb. 22 near Qarghuli.

Starz said the finds further solidify the partnership between IA and U.S. forces.

"As our relationship with the Iraqi

Army grows, so does our collective effectiveness," he said. "The Iraqi Army continues to gain strength in this former insurgent stronghold."

ISF, shop owners clean up market district

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

FOB HAMMER — Cars did not jam the streets of the Four Corners market district Feb. 21. The market was not packed with shoppers and merchants selling their wares. Still, the scene was a far cry from just under one year ago.

Eleven months ago, local people would not come to the market; few shops were even open.

"Sectarian violence and criminals kept people out," said Sgt. 1st Class James Mattwig, a platoon sergeant in headquarters troop, Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment. "When we first arrived, Four Corners was a hub for enemy supplies going into Baghdad. Not many people wanted to live or work there."

Since the arrival of 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team into the area, the market has slowly reverted back to a hub of commerce rather than violence.

On Feb. 21, policemen assigned to the 3rd National Police Battalion controlled traffic coming into the market so shop owners could fix up their shops. Members of the Sons of Iraq planted trees and local children picked up trash accumulated along the streets, while local police-

men provided security. It was a day of improvement for an area on the upswing.

"Today was a collective effort between the National Police, Sons of Iraq, Iraqi Police and Coalition Forces to help local shop owners clean up the market," Mattwig said. "We are making progress cleaning up the area. It is getting better here."

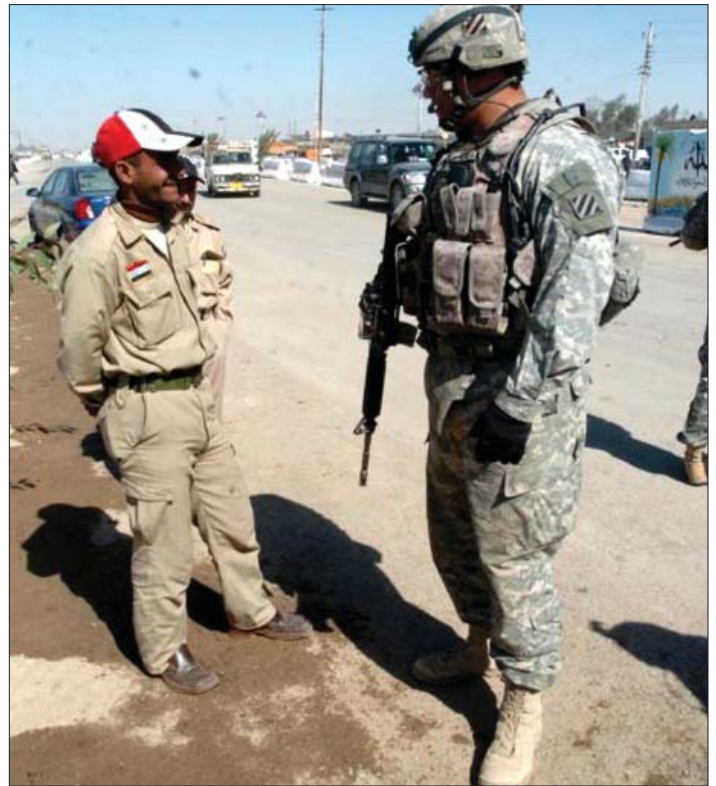
Mattwig said soon after Coalition Forces arrived in the area, shop owners started returning. As more businesses reopened, people started coming back. The influx of people is directly tied to the security of the area.

"We were very aggressive in rooting out the criminals when we first arrived," he said. "The bad guys packed up and left very quickly. (They) have gotten the message from us: You aren't wanted here."

Disuse had caused much of the market to fall into disrepair; without shop owners to clean up in front of their stores, trash accumulated along the roads.

When people started returning, business owners were so busy trying to make up for lost time and profit that repair and upkeep lost priority.

"When we first got here it was a train wreck," said Spc. Garrett Brooks, a scout in Troop A. "It was pretty



Spc. Ben Hutto
Sgt. Brandon Sayles, a squad leader in Troop A, 3-1st Cav. Regt., speaks with a member of the Sons of Iraq in the Four Corners market district Feb. 21.

nasty. The people of the area have slowly cleaned it up. I think after today, it will look 20 times better. Just seeing what they've done so far is impressive."

As the Soldiers went through the streets to check on the progress of the cleaning project, they were greeted by shop owners and Iraqi Security Forces.

"We are glad the U.S. forces are here," said a local man through an interpreter. "They have helped the people here very much."

"(Four Corners) still needs work," Brooks said. "There is still a lot of cleaning up that needs to be done, but it is on its way. It's still a work in progress, but progress is still being made."

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Sullivan brothers share love of Soldiers, Army

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
EDITOR

BAGHDAD — Lt. Cols. Tim and Mark Sullivan are twins, but a birthday and a pay grade aren't the only things they have in common.

The brothers also have a shared love of the Army and of leading Soldiers.

"The Army is the greatest organization in the world," Tim, commander of 13th Combat Services Support Battalion, said. "I'm surrounded by America's greatest citizens."

The brothers, who are originally from Huntsville, Ala., said their father was in the military before them; Tim said he knew as early as high school what his career path would be.

"I was late to catch on," said Mark, commander of 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery, although the two ultimately began their military involvement at the same time.

"We came in together in '88. We lived together, went through ROTC together, got commissioned together. We were stationed together

three times, twice in 3ID."

Although their careers have closely paralleled, the Sullivans said sibling rivalry has never come into play.

"There's no competition here," Mark said. "It's all about a large group of people trying to reach a common goal."

"Competition isn't as important as doing your job," Tim said, before adding with a smile, "but he got commissioned before me ... no doubt I'll surpass him. He'll be working for me someday."

Joking aside, the two say they see each other more as mutual sounding boards for professional matters than as rivals.

"Just about any issue I have — a Soldier issue, a leader issue, anything — if I need advice from a peer, I have a peer — and a brother," Tim said.

The two plan to continue being there for each other, in a military sense, for quite some time.

"I have at least five years left in the Army," Mark said.

Tim intends to stay in "until they kick me out."

"Everything we do, we have in common," he said of



Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

The Sullivan brothers pose in front of Task Force Marne Headquarters during a visit to Camp Victory.

his brother. "Even though I command a support battalion and he's combat arms; he's fighting the fight and I'm supporting the fight."

While both deployed, the Sullivans say they don't worry about each other, but they do keep in touch.

"I think about him every day," Tim said. "I don't worry about him. We never get off the phone without giving each other a safety brief

— keep your head down; take care of your troops. Our job is to bring them home safely."

The brothers agree on one more important thing: it's all about the Soldiers.

"For me, it's a privilege to serve these young kids," Mark said.

"They're just like family," Tim added. "I'm surrounded by heroes. These Soldiers are the best I've ever seen."

Safety Thought of the Day Green Beam Designator Safety

- The GBD is a powerful, long range green laser with a large beam used to dazzle and visually warn the intended subject. It is designed to be a checkpoint warning measure. Do not use it as a weapon, signaling or identification device.
- Use the GBD at an appropriate distance. The Eye Safe Distance is 70 meters with magnifying optics. Permanent eye damage or blindness can result from

exposure within seconds.

- Never point the laser at anyone's face.
- Know your escalation of force procedures.
- If dazzled, stop, cover eyes and look away immediately. Attempt to contact the unit by radio or visual signals.
- See the TF Marne Force Protection SIPR web page under "FP SOP" for more information.

Headline Highlights

Singing turkey on TV; compulsory opera classes

Irish pick turkey for Eurovision song

DUBLIN (Reuters) — Ireland's rich musical tradition has acquired an unlikely ambassador for the 2008 Eurovision song contest: glove puppet Dustin the Turkey, renowned for his burps and thick Dublin accent.

The choice of Dustin's song "Irelande Douze Pointe" (Ireland 12 points) played to mixed reviews on Saturday, with applause and boos from the audience.

One judge, Dana Rosemary Scallon, a former Eurovision winner, said: "If it's the turkey, I think we're better not to go into the Eurovision again."

But Dustin vowed to put Ireland, which has a record seven Eurovision wins, back on the map after several disappointing years and finishing last place in Helsinki in 2007.

"Shake your feathers and pop your beak/ Shake it to the West and to the East," Dustin sings as he makes fun of Riverdance, a hugely successful Irish dance show.

He also takes on "goulash-eating" eastern countries which tend to vote for each other's Eurovision candidates.

Irish rock star Bob Geldof, who has released a duet with Dustin, denied he was unfit to represent the country just because he is a turkey.

"The mere fact of his being a turkey should give Ireland the edge," Geldof told the Irish Times.

Due to Ireland's disastrous performance last year, Dustin will have to

compete in a semi-final in May, a few days before the final in Belgrade is watched on television by an audience of tens of millions.

Rice: Bush has rhythm

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President George W. Bush has rhythm, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice assured reporters on Friday after watching her boss join African dancers during his five-nation tour of the continent this week.

"I just want to report that the president did a fair amount of dancing when he was in Africa and demonstrated that he can stay on the beat," said Rice, an accomplished musician who loves to dance herself.

"You look skeptical, but I was there — I can certify," Rice added when reporters chuckled at her observations and asked to see a video of the president dancing.

Rice accompanied Bush and first lady Laura Bush on their African trip, where they visited Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, Liberia and Benin.

They returned to Washington on Thursday.

Chinese say compulsory Peking Opera classes off key

BEIJING (Reuters) — A program launched in China to teach traditional Peking opera in schools has drawn criticism from some Internet users who said untrained teachers and forced in-

struction might put off students from the 200-year-old art.

Classic Peking Opera items will be added to the music curriculum in 200 schools across 10 provinces in China to promote traditional culture among its younger generation, the Beijing News said on Monday.

"The aim of this program is to help the children to develop an interest in the nation's unique cultural treasures," the paper quoted Wang Jun, a culture official in Beijing's education bureau, as saying.

In media commentaries, people questioned how music teachers, themselves untrained in Peking Opera, would educate students in the complex gestures and trilling vocals that characterize the art. Only 27 percent of some 21,000 respondents to an opinion poll carried by popular web portal Sina.com, believed the course would help promote traditional Chinese culture.

"If the students are forced to learn, it might backfire and make them totally lose interest," said a post by an Internet user who called himself "Little Monkey."

China's education ministry has been criticized for other attempts to give students' a broader scope of learning.

A plan to introduce compulsory dance classes aimed at improving primary and high school children's social skills and fitness, drew fire from some parents concerned the waltz and other ballroom steps might foster puppy love between their children and dance partners.

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5			1			3		8
7		5				8		3
				6	3	5	4	
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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

No

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