

Serving Task Force Marne



Sgt. Timothy Kingston

Sgt. Max Free, with the 67th Engineer Company, attached to 3rd HBCT, 3rd INf. Div., watches as Sam, a military search dog, looks for weapons during an operation in the village of Kesra in southern Khanassa, Feb. 24.

# Hammer Soldiers make presence in Khanassa

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

FOB HAMMER — Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, visited the village of Kesra in southern Khanassa, Iraq, Feb. 24 to meet with local leaders.

Soldiers and leaders, including the commander of the 1-15th Inf. Regt., Lt. Col. Jack Marr, from Minneapolis, visited the village to discuss how Coalition Forces can support the area's humanitarian and security needs.

"We have only done air assault missions in the area in the past," said Maj. John Cushing, from Rochester, Mich., the 1-15 Inf. Regt. operations officer. "No one has been there for the reasons we were today. They had not seen Coalition Forces driving during the day since 2006."

Cushing said Khanassa has been a hostile area in the past.

"We were unsure of how we were going to be welcomed," he said. "But I think they were just as curious as we were."

The welcome was not what they had expected, Cushing said. Local leaders greeted the unit by coming to the front gate of Combat Outpost Carver, home to Company B, 1-15th Inf. Regt., to escort the Soldiers to their village.

"After the meeting we had with about 25 different sheiks, we did a foot patrol through the town and people followed us," Cushing said. "It was a warm welcome."

Cushing said he was impressed by

the village's organization. Citizens were securing their community with guard positions without any help from Coalition Forces.

"They had a robust market," he said. "It was probably better than any market I've seen in our (area of operation). It looked like they weren't hurting for any supplies."

Despite their stability, Cushing said there are still ways to assist the village. Plans are in the works to provide the village with water.

"We will continue to work with the sheiks," Cushing said. "We want to set up the town for future relationships and improvements. This is a good example of how towns all over Iraq are starting to come together to force al-Qaeda out."

# Cuscatlán Battalion's 9th Rotation completes Iraq mission

STAFF SGT. CARLOS LAZO MND-C PAO

FOB DELTA — In their continued commitment to help the country of Iraq, the tenth rotation of soldiers from El Salvador assumed responsibility of humanitarian efforts in Al Kut Feb. 22.

During a transfer of authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Delta, Infantry Col. Walter Mauricio Arevalo Gavidia, commander, Cuscatlán Battalion, 10th Rotation, took command from the Cuscatlán Battalion, Ninth Rotation.

The outgoing commander, Artillery Col. Jose Atilio Benitez Parada, Cuscatlán Battalion, 9th Rotation, spoke of his country's continued goal in assisting the people of Iraq.

"We Salvadorian soldiers of all ranks that form the Cuscatlán Battalion, 9th Rotation, feel satisfied and proud of the labor developed ... achieved with our efforts and the will to carry out our orders given to us by the President of the Republic, commander and chief of our Armed Forces and by the people of El Salvador."

The 9th Rotation conducted 34 humanitarian assistance missions benefiting more than 15,000 Iraqi citizens;



Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazo

An El Salvadorian soldier salutes as the Cuscatlán Battalion, 9th Rotation Color Guard marches by in a TOA ceremony at FOB Delta Feb. 22. The battalion transferred authority and responsibility of humanitarian efforts in Al Kut, Iraq, to the Cuscatlán Battalion, 10th Rotation.

they also completed 22 projects worth more than \$2 million dollars. Three projects are still in progress, worth approximately \$300,000, and 24 more are awaiting approval, totaling more than \$3 million dollars.

The projects run the gamut from health, electricity, water, education, communication, business development, transportation and reconstruction. The battalion worked closely with the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team to develop and execute the projects.

Several sheiks of the nearby villages and towns who worked with Benitez attended the ceremony among other guests. The list of guests included Brig. Gen. Edward Cardon, deputy commanding general for support, Multi-National Division - Center, and Brig. Gen. Gabriel Gabor, deputy chief of staff, Multi-National Force – Iraq.

### THE Dog Face Daily

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### **Congratulations to MG Keith L. Ware Journalism Competition awardees from MND-C, Fort Stewart**

The MG Keith L. Ware Journalism Awards Competition Ceremony recognizes military and civilian-employee print and broadcast practitioners for journalistic excellence in furthering the objectives of the Department of the Army internal-information program.

The Secretary of the Army sponsors this competition annually.

The Office of the Chief of Public Affairs conducts judging with a goal of ensuring the best internal information efforts receive recognition for professional excellence and outstanding achievement.

Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware was born in Denver on November 23, 1915. His military career began on July 9, 1941, and he served in the 3rd Infantry Division from 1942 to 1945.

He served as Deputy Chief and Chief of Information for the Department of the Army from September 1964 through November 1967.

On June 18, 1945 he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He was killed in Vietnam when his helicopter was shot down Sept. 13, 1968. Ware was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His Medal of Honor is currently on display at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning.

#### **MND-C Awardees**

#### PRINT

#### Magazine-Format Publication Newsletter-Format Publication

3rd Place, From the Front, 3rd Infantry Division 2nd Place, The Dog Face Daily, 3rd Inf. Div. Editor/Design: Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft Contributing journalists: Sgt. Ben Brody, Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky, Sgt. Jason Stadel, Spc. Ben Hutto, Sgt. Natalie Rostek, Pfc. Amanda McBride, Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills, Pfc. Monica K. Smith, Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles, Sgt. 1st Class Angela McKinzie, Sgt. Chris McCann, Sgt. 1st Class Kerensa Hardy, Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazo, Staff Sgt. Tony Lindback, Sgt. Michael Connors, Sgt. Luis Delgadillo, Staff Sgt. Samantha Stryker, Spc. William Hatton

#### **News Article**

2nd Place, "Soldiers Make A Surprise

Entrance," Sgt. Ben Brody, 3rd Inf. Div. Honorable mention, "Operation New Blue," Staff Sgt. Tony Lindback, 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

#### **Story Series**

2nd Place, "Kalsu Idol," Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

#### Single/Stand-Alone Photograph

Honorable mention, "Market Security," Sgt. Michael Connors, 302nd MPAD

#### Photojournalism

1st Place, "Patching relations: I-30 hosts MEDOP, Iraqi doctors take lead," Sgt. Luis Delgadillo, 302nd MPAD

#### Feature Article

Honorable mention, "From relaxing to bullfighting, Soldiers enjoy EML," Staff Sgt. Tony Lindback, 302nd MPAD Honorable mention, "At Headquarters, tradition isn't flagging," Sgt. Michael Connors, 302nd MPAD

#### **Field Newspapers**

2nd Place, Spartan Chronicle, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

#### BROADCAST

Radio Newscast 1st Place, "Freedom Report," Sgt. 1st Class Marty Collins, 302nd MPAD

Television Spot/Promo Production 1st Place, "Go Army Beat Navy," 3rd Inf. Div.

#### **Television News Report**

1st Place, "Chaos Night Raid," Spc. Adam Prickel, 302nd MPAD 2nd Place, "Eye in the Sky," Staff Sgt. Crystal Cook, 302nd MPAD 3rd Place, "Cleaning up the Streets," Sgt. Jay Townsend, 302nd MPAD 3rd Place, "Hope and freedom comes to Stryker," Spc. Rebecka Reyes, 3rd Inf. Div.

#### **Television Feature Report**

3rd Place, "The Girl," Spc. Rebecka Reyes, 3rd Inf. Div.

#### Local Television Newscast

2nd Place, Marne Forward Newscast, 3rd Inf. Div.

#### Fort Stewart/Hunter Awardees

#### <u>PRINT</u>

Metro Publication - required May 10, 2007 edition:

Honorable Mention, The Frontline - editor's choice edition: 3rd Place, The Frontline

#### **Magazine Publication**

required May 2007 edition: Quality Time, 3rd Inf. Div.
editor's choice edition: Quality Time, December 2007 edition

#### Photojournalism

3rd Place, Lina Satele, The Frontline: "More troops join the fight"

#### **Art/Graphic in Support**

1st Place, Lina Satele: "Wreaths laid across America's Warrior's Walk" 3rd Place, Sherron Walker: "Stewart-Hunter Displays Halloween Fashion"

#### BROADCAST

**Television Information Program** 2nd Place, Katrina Sharp-Curtis: "Education Matters"

#### **Television Feature**

1st Place, Kaytrina Sharp-Curtis: "Relay for Life" 2nd Place, Kaytrina Sharp-Curtis: Joyce Bailey

#### **Local Television Newscast**

3rd Place, Marne Report: Veterans Day 2007, Contributors: Kaytrina Sharp-Curtis, Jennifer Scales, Spc. Taz Mouton, Victor Fishman, Doug Suttle, Sarah Ellis

### Safety Thought of the Day Three Points of Contact Reminders

• Dismount the vehicle using the proper steps and hand holds — never jump.

• Ensure handholds, rails, and foot rests are properly emplaced and anchored before putting weight on them.

Keep the vehicle's steps and handholds clean, dry, and free of mud and oil. This will allow better traction and decrease the chance of slipping and falling.
Entry and exits from the back of an LMTV are best

accomplished with the use of the vehicle's cargo ladder.

• Remember — three points of contact increases your stability and balance.



File photo

### Headline Highlights Cold feet penalty; 'dog' buns; tourist crackdown

A price for saying 'I don't'

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) — Mexican brides and grooms who get cold feet before walking down the aisle will have to pay their significant other for the inconvenience, if a proposal by a local congressman is adopted.

In Mexico, weddings are big social events where large amounts of money are spent before the big day on gowns, tuxedos, catering and music bands and churches are even reserved years in advance.

Weddings of over 500, or even 1,000 guests, are frequently splashed across newspapers' social pages. According to Mexican tradition, the bride's family absorbs most of the expenses.

Jose Antonio Zepeda, a city deputy for President Felipe Calderon's conservative National Action Party, wants to introduce the idea of compensation for backing out of a wedding as part of changes to the capital's civil code.

"He or she who refuses to live up to a marriage commitment will pay for the expenses that the other party made in connection with the planned matrimony," Zepeda's proposal says.

Zepeda also wants lawmakers to give legal status to prenuptial agreements for those on their way to the altar in hopes it will make divorce settlements easier if the couple splits later on.

"We are looking to avoid emotional distress, cut divorce expenses and shorten the time that courts spend solving them," Zepeda told Reuters on Friday. The prenuptial agreement will be optional.

Divorce rates are on the rise in Mexi-

co, which has a predominantly Catholic population of over 107 million. Currently, three out of 10 couples in Mexico City divorce, compared with just one in 10 in the 1970s, the congressman said.

Zepeda's proposal is expected to be voted by Mexico City's congress in March or April. If passed, it will only apply to heterosexual couples in the capital, which legalized gay unions in 2006.

#### Bun-maker cleans up name

BEIJING (Reuters) — A Chinese maker of famed stuffed buns whose Chinese name means "A dog would ignore it" has cleaned up its English-language to avoid confusion, but may be risking more puzzled looks.

The steamed "Goubuli" buns filled with a mince of meat and vegetables are the pride of Tianjin, a gritty port city near Beijing. Their Chinese name literally means "Dog would ignore it" and is said to come from the nickname of the man who began selling them some 150 years ago. Now the buns are sold nationwide and have attracted makers of fake "Dog-would-ignore-it" buns.

But hungry for more success and apparently worried that foreign tourists may fear their name reflects the buns' quality or contents, the Tianjin Goubuli Group Corporation has opted for a tamer English name that may bring its own confusion — "Go Believe."

"The English name highlights the honesty of the company," said the chairman of the corporation, Zhang Yansen, according to the Xinhua news agency on Sunday. "We hope it can be better understood and trusted by foreign guests."

The company has started hanging out the English-language "Go Believe" sign on its restaurants, Xinhua said.

## Beijing police clamp down on 'Bird's Nest' tourists

BEIJING (Reuters) — Beijing has moved to crack down on drivers who park their cars illegally on a major highway to take snaps from a pedestrian bridge with good views of the major Olympic stadiums, local media reported on Sunday.

Authorities have posted traffic police on a highway overpass near the Olympic village in a bid to stop the hundreds of cars and tourist buses from pausing to take photos of the main "Bird's Nest" National Stadium and the "Water Cube" Swimming Centre, the Beijing Youth Daily said. Offenders would have their number plates photographed by camera-toting cops, and be fined 200 yuan, the paper said, adding that signs posted two months ago to warn off motorists had not worked.

The pedestrian bridge spanning the highway had also become a haunt for hawkers doing a thriving trade in Polaroids and counterfeit Olympic merchandise, the paper said. Some vendors had even set up computers and printers to sell "10-yuan photos of people posing with the Bird's Nest," it said.

"Pirated Fuwa (Olympic mascots), had also taken advantage of the view, selling well, with 10 and 20-yuan keyrings proving particularly popular," the paper said.

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