

Serving Task Force Marne



Courtesy photo

A Soldier with Company C, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, watches over as Sons of Iraq search people of Janabi Village before they enter a biometric testing area.

Crazy Horse III garners trust in Janabi Village

Pvt. Christopher McKenna 3rd BCT, 101st Abn Div. (ASSLT)

CAMP STRIKER – Iron Rakkasan Soldiers conducted a two-day mission March 2- 3, in Janabi Village, gaining local residents' trust.

During Operation Crazy Horse III, Rakkasans set up new Sons of Iraq checkpoints, did biometric testing and held a coordinated medical engagement to give residents much-needed medical treatment and medications.

"The focus was on clearing routes for the new checkpoints and developing positive relations with the Janabi tribe," said 1st Lt. Casey Zimmerman, platoon leader for 3rd Platoon, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Zimmerman, from Santa Barbara, Calif., said the mission leaned toward providing stabilization in the area. "This wouldn't work if the Janabi people ... were not supportive of change," said Sgt. Michael Waters from Nampa, Idaho, Co. C, 3-187th Inf. Regt.

To show good faith, male villagers underwent biometrics testing. The process includes obtaining fingerprints, retinal scans and other pertinent information. The testing is performed on all

Soldiers care for well-being of fellow aviators

PFC. MONICA K. SMITH 3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP STRIKER – A constant flux in Soldiers' schedules can create difficulties for some trying to make sick call for medical treatment. An aid station at the Combat Aviation Brigade flight line provides medical treatment to Soldiers in 3rd CAB who work there and would otherwise be unable to make sick call at the Camp Striker Troop Medical Clinic.

"We're a small facility where we take care of mostly sick call and aviator flight physicals," said Staff Sgt. Rey Flete, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment and noncommissioned officer in charge at the aid station. "It gives the aviators a chance to be seen when they come off the flight line without having to go through the inconvenience of going to the other TMC."

To date, the aid station has seen more than 7,000 patients over the duration of the deployment. With no sickcall hours, Soldiers are able to visit the aid station at their convenience, allowing them to put the mission first.

"It's convenient for where I work," said Spc. Erick Heath, Company D, 2-3rd Avn. Regt., who came to the clinic to re-qualify on his combat lifesaving skills. "There's not a set sick-call schedule so you can come when you want. It's also convenient when it comes to training."

The brigade aid station is fully functional and operates in three eight-hour shifts, 24-hours a day. The station is manned by Soldiers from the 2-3rd Avn. Regt., the 1st Battalion, 3rd Avn.



Photo by Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Spc. Chris Gary (center), medic in HHC, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment guides Spc. Adam Thibeault (left) and Spc. Erick Heath, both Company D, 2-3 Avn. Regt., in giving an IV as they re-qualify on their combat lifesaving skills March 4 at the Combat Aviation Brigade flight line.

Regt. and the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment. Each shift has three to four Soldiers on duty; one is an NCOIC and another is a doctor.

"The only difference between us and the Striker TMC is they are a level two (facility) and we are a level one," Flete said. "They have an X-ray and have more lab abilities. We have a trauma room if someone gets hurt out here so we have a place to treat them."

The aid station has been renovated multiple times since the 3rd CAB's arrival in May. Lights and an air conditioner were installed, windows were boarded and a floor was built in the trauma room.

"The hardest part was getting this place set up," Flete said.

With a majority of 3rd CAB Soldiers working at the flight line, having an aid station located where they work allows medics to respond to any issues that occur on the flight line.

"We're responsible for all the aviation aspects out here as far as medical concerns go; otherwise, the Soldiers would have to wait for the other TMC to send medics across the flight line. It's a safety thing," Flete said.

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SoI and males volunteering for service in the Iraqi Security Forces.

"The people of Janabi approached us, saying they bet on the wrong horse," Zimmerman said. "Many of them were former (al-Qaeda) members not even three weeks ago."

The reconciliation of former al-Qaeda members has allowed progress in the area.

"They have actually gone out and dug up improvised explosive devices which they had planted, turned in weapon caches and have shown dedication toward working together with the Coalition and Iraqi Army forces," Zimmerman said.

A total of 314 people, including 130 women, were seen by three Iraqi doctors at the CME.

"Safety was a major concern going into the mission, especially with the history of the area," Waters said.

Now, the community is taking steps toward a more peaceful lifestyle.

"Part of what was once known as the Triangle of Death is now (becoming) a model for Iraq to follow," Zimmerman said.

Daylight Saving Time

The U.S. will spring ahead an hour March 9 making it a 7 hour difference between eastern standard time and Baghdad time.

Iraqi, U.S. forces discuss EOD



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Ali, Commander 8th Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal Company (IAB-DC), hosted CDR Jeff McCauley and Command Master Chief Shawn Davis of Task Force TROY's MND-Center EOD Battalion during a tour of his command near Ad Diwaniyah this month. During McCauley's visit, he and Ali discussed employment of robots during EOD response missions. Under Ali's leadership, the 8th IABDC has trained extensively with the U.S. Navy's EOD Mobile Unit ELEVEN Platoon SEVENTEEN during the past five months and has gained exceptional proficiency in identifying and rendering safe IEDs as well as safely disposing of unexploded ordnance.

Safety Thought of the Day Overhead Power Lines

- One of the basic rules to remember is simple: Look Up!
- If you are aware of overhead power lines, you can steer clear of danger.
- All downed power lines should be treated as live, never touch or drive over them.
- Overhead power lines are usually bare and not insulated.
- Ensure vehicle antennas and gunners have a adequate clearance from overhead power lines.
- When operating cranes, forklifts or other construction equipment, first check for overhead lines and use ground guides and spotters.



Headline Highlights Astrologer used by Brits; Overweight soldiers

Spies had an astrologer...

LONDON (Reuters) - British spies hired an astrologer during World War II, although many thought he was a fraud, and even sent him to the United States on a propaganda mission, secret documents released on Tuesday revealed.

The documents – the latest in a trickle of British spy agency files being released over the past decade – provide both a cloak-and-dagger story worthy of a Hollywood script and serious insights into British World War Two spycraft, said the security service's official historian, Christopher Andrew.

The files show that many British spy handlers had nothing but contempt for Louis de Wohl, a German-speaking novelist and astrologer who claimed to be descended from Hungarian nobility and called himself "The Modern Nostradamus."

"I have never liked Louis de Wohl. He strikes me as a charlatan and an imposter," one of his handlers wrote. "He at one time exercised some influence upon highly placed British intelligence officers through his star-gazing profession."

Another handler called him a "complete scoundrel" and another a "dangerous charlatan and confidence-trick merchant."

"He claims in his books to have traveled widely in the East in Arab disguise and to have often frequented cafes in Berlin in feminine attire," wrote another. Several wrote that they thought he was a former Nazi.

Yet he managed to set himself up

in a British government apartment in west London, which he called the Psychological Research Bureau.

There, he read horoscopes for wealthy clients including senior British officials, French resistance commanders and the Romanian ambassador, whom he claimed to have persuaded to resign and defect.

British spy bosses sent de Wohl on a propaganda tour of America in 1941, when Britain was at war with Germany but Washington was still officially neutral.

De Wohl gave U.S. newspapers a letter he claimed was from Hitler's own astrologer predicting the Nazi leader would "disappear" within a year.

U.S. newspapers lapped up his lectures predicting doom for the Nazis, like one to the American Federation of Scientific Astrologers in Cleveland.

"His propaganda visit to America was considered highly successful," one British spy handler wrote in his file, recommending de Wohl be given British nationality.

He was given the rank of captain in the British army, which seems to have annoyed many officials. One wrote: "He is not an ornament to His Majesty's uniform."

For the remainder of the war, the British spy agencies gave him scattered work and decided to keep a careful eye on him.

"Despite the fact that many people regard him as a charlatan, there are still a great many people eager to take his astrological advice. He has great gifts as a psychologist and excellent insight into the continental mind," a handler wrote. "In view of the fact that he is an extremely clever man with multifarious connections and a very singular background, and is guided no doubt solely by self interest, we should exercise as close a surveillance over him as possible."

Whose soldiers are chubby and unfit?

BERLIN (Reuters) - Germany's young soldiers are fat, smoke too much and don't exercise enough, a report on the armed services said on Tuesday.

"The public perception is that soldiers are slim, sporty and healthy. Unfortunately, the reality is very different," said Germany's army commissioner Reinhold Robbe as he presented the report.

Some 40 percent of soldiers between 18 and 29 are overweight compared to 35 percent among Germany's civilian population, said the report, which also found young male and female soldiers smoked too much and failed to do enough sport.

"I make no secret of the fact that these results worry me a lot," said Robbe, who blamed a passive lifestyle among troops. Once one of the world's most-feared fighting forces, Germany's armed forces now have about 245,000 uniformed staff.

Dogged by the legacy of World War Two, it is only nine years ago that Germany engaged in its first foreign combat operations since 1945, taking part in NATO air strikes in Yugoslavia.

Roughly 9,000 German troops are deployed today in global hotspots including Afghanistan and Kosovo.

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