

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne



Spc. Amanda McBride

Soldiers from Company A, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, participate in a sling-load training exercise March 6 at the airfield on FOB Kalsu, Iraq.

Vanguard Soldiers conduct sling-load training

SPC. AMANDA MCBRIDE
4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division participated in a sling-load training exercise March 6 on the airfield at FOB Kalsu.

Soldiers from Company A, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion and Company A, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, received the training to prepare for upcoming operations.

Prior to the nighttime exercise, Soldiers were briefed on the basics.

“The first portion of the orientation

was on the aircraft, equipment and safety,” said Lt. Erich Steffens, platoon leader in Co. A, 703rd BSB.

After the briefing, they were taught how to properly rig a sling load.

“We did a rehearsal in rigging,” said Steffens, a native of Wayland, N.Y. “Then we got them up onto the load.”

During the night portion of the exercise, Soldiers were able to take turns sling-loading in real-life scenarios.

Teams were made up of two Soldiers with experience in rigging sling loads and three Soldier trainees. Each five-man team hooked up cargo onto CH-47 Chinooks to be transported to

the simulated location. For many of the Soldiers, this was their first time sling-loading.

Sgt. Sergio Prieto, from Queens, N.Y., Co. A, 703rd BSB, said he didn’t know what to expect before the exercise. “I thought it was going to be a lot harder.”

Keeping situational awareness on top of the different loads was a challenge, Steffens said, but the Soldiers remembered safety throughout the training.

“The training was definitely successful,” Steffens said. “You could see the confidence on their faces after they did it.”

IA Bomb Disposal Company takes on EOD mission

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
MND-C PAO

BAGHDAD — When Soldiers encounter an improvised explosive device while out on patrol, they immediately call in an explosive ordnance disposal team to take care of it.

But Coalition EOD teams won't be here forever — that's where the 8th Division Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal Company comes in, as well as the Task Force Troy teams who train the IA Soldiers.

"The EOD partnership with the 8th Division Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal Company has been going on for at least the last three years," said Navy Lt. Nicholas M. Parker, TF Troy officer in charge of Platoon 17, EOD Mobile Unit 11, out of Whidbey Island, Wash.

"The partnership started with training to supplement and build on the training that the Iraqis were receiving from their own EOD schools, also overseen by U.S. EOD personnel."

TF Troy is a brigade-sized element comprised of personnel from the U.S. Air Force, Army and Navy. Navy Cdr. Jeff McCauley commands EOD Mobile Unit 6, out of Charleston, S.C., the battalion-sized TF Troy unit working with Multi-National Division — Center.

"We provide direct support to (MND-C) brigades," McCauley said, adding that the unit is an enabler that allows for movement of forces by clearing explosive hazards.

McCauley said soldiers in the 8th IA BDC are now stepping up to fill their Coalition counterparts' roles.

"They're growing; they just need more experience," he said. "They're already responding to 80 percent of

"I'm impressed by their professionalism, their enthusiasm ... they're excited to work with U.S. EOD teams."

— Navy Cdr. Jeff McCauley
commander, EOD Mobile Unit 6

the EOD calls we get."

Parker described the training needed by a successful EOD team, breaking down what he called the "four levels of proficiency."

"The basic level one (is) the ability to locate, expose and destroy ordnance that has been trained on under supervision," he said. "Level two builds on that foundation and increases the amount of ordnance that they can work on, as well as places them in a supervisory position."

"Level three is the core of their EOD training and expands their responsibility to even more ordnance," Parker added, "including those with special procedures and hazards, such as rockets, white phosphorus and illumination rounds. The pinnacle is level four, where they can work on unknown ordnance, the biggest target being IEDs."

McCauley said training the IA BDC is beneficial not only as a form of technical experience for the Soldiers, but also as a means through which to gain the trust of Iraqi citizens.

"It lets the Iraqi people see their fellow Iraqis working to help them," he said. "It's restoring normalcy to the towns. In the Diwaniyah area, when you go out in the evenings, you

see people outside walking around ... they wouldn't risk it before."

This trend is growing, he said, based on the IA BDC picking up a majority of the EOD missions.

"They go out on missions and then come back and turn in what they find to (Coalition forces)," McCauley said. "I'm impressed by their professionalism, their enthusiasm ... they're excited to work with U.S. EOD teams."

Parker praised the progress of the 8th IA BDC Soldiers, calling the Iraqi team, which has conducted responses throughout the Qadisiyah Province and the city of Ad Diwaniyah, "very operational."

"They have found, cleared and disposed of tons of explosive remnants of war, as well as dozens of placed and cached IEDs, catching them before they can be used against CF and Iraqi citizens," he said.

McCauley said the U.S. EOD Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of TF Troy take great satisfaction in all they've helped the IA BDC accomplish in their area of operations.

"The U.S. teams take a lot of pride in the fact that the Iraqi teams are taking on this responsibility and that they had a part in it," he said.

Although progress is noticeably underway, there is still a great deal of work left for the two teams to do together, Parker noted.

"I believe that we will maintain a partnership for a long time with this unit," he said, "working together as partner nations in finding the best ways to clear the decades of ordnance from the ground to ensure the freedom of movement for all of the Iraqis in the 8th Division (area of operation)."

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7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Judges visit Salman Pak for first time since '05

SPC. BEN HUTTO

3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER – On March 10, Iraqi judges surveyed the new government center in Salman Pak during their first visit back since 2005.

The facility was designed to place the courthouse, police, fire, and emergency medical services in one central location.

In 2005, the judges were forced to relocate from Salman Pak when extremist groups made the area too dangerous to remain.

Col. Ryan J. Kuhn, from Clarks, Neb., deputy commander of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, praised Judge Hassen, one the judges who viewed the facility, for returning to Salman Pak after being shot there three years ago.

"We talk about heroes all the time, but it is very rare that we get to meet one," Kuhn said. "You honor us by being here. Your bravery will inspire many in this area."

Leaders in the 3rd HBCT have worked with Iraqi Security Forces to secure Salman Pak since the brigade's arrival to the area last March. At the meeting, they assured the judges the area was secure.

"We feel that the area is secure and is ready for your return," said Lt. Col. Jack Marr, from Minneapolis, the commander of the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment. "There will defi-

nately be no shortage of work for you here. I was stopped three times on my way down here by citizens that have issues that need to be heard by you."

After viewing the facility, Judge Razak, the investigative judge for the Mada'in Qada, agreed it was time for the judges to return.

"I've seen a big difference on the streets today," he said. "There are lots of people moving around on the streets. It looks better. Consider the judges back. We can be operating here in a couple of days if we can get all of our equipment and assistants here."

Kuhn was happy to hear the news and said their visit marked an exciting day.

"I know we are going to do great things for the good people here," Kuhn said. "We believe that more people will return when they hear that the court is back. This will bring more life back to this area."

Razak agreed, saying that Salman Pak was once a peaceful place.

"Foreign terrorists penetrated this



Spc. Ben Hutto

Col. Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr., the commander of the 3rd HBCT (left), greets Judge Razak, the investigative judge for the Mada'in Qada (right) at the governance center in Salman Pak, March 10.

place and destroyed everything we had," Razak said. "Rule of law needs to take the place of revenge here."

Col. Wayne W. Grigsby, from Prince George's County, Md., commander of the 3rd HBCT, congratulated the judges on their decision and offered them his help in rebuilding their city.

"We all remember where this place was a year ago," he said. "We have worked hard to restore order and security here. Extremists cannot operate here now. It is now time for the Iraqi people to stand up and bring rule of law back to Salman Pak. The people here will follow their leaders. I appreciate your leadership and taking this place to the next level."

Safety Thought of the Day

M16 Rifles & M4 Series Carbines, Cleaning and Maintenance Reminders

- Give the inside areas and functional parts of the weapon a thorough cleaning every day and after fire missions.
- Lubrication should only be applied to the internal working surfaces, functional parts, and not on outside surfaces.
- Unload and dry ammo and inside of magazines daily. Do not lube magazines.
- Keep the bolt and ejection port cover closed at all times, to help keep out sand and dust.
- Do not neglect to maintain spring inside the magazine.
- The only authorized lubricants and cleaners are listed in TM 9-1005-319-10 work package 0026, Expendable/Durable supplies.



File photos

Headline Highlights

Bush sings; Honda helps drivers; tomatoe comeback

Bush yearns for Texas in rare singing performance

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – U.S. President George W. Bush donned a cowboy hat and sang an early goodbye to Washington on Saturday night with a performance that lampooned White House journalists and Vice President Dick Cheney among others.

Bush surprised cabinet secretaries, diplomatic officials and journalists at the annual Gridiron dinner by taking the stage and giving the first public singing performance of his eight-year presidency, which ends in January 2009.

To the tune of country song “Green Green Grass of Home”, Bush sang of longing for his ranch in Crawford, Texas and his dog Barney.

“And there to meet me is my mama and my papa, down the lane I look and here comes Barney, heart of gold and breath like honey; it’s good to touch the brown brown grass of home.”

Bush, singing only slightly off key, then turned to some of the long-term members of his team including Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

“For there’s Condi and Dick, my old compadre, talking to me about some oil rich Saudi, but soon I’ll touch the brown brown grass of home.”

“That old White house is behind me, I am once again carefree, don’t have to worry ‘bout a crisis in Pyongyang. Down the lane I look, Dick Cheney is

strolling with documents he’d been withholding, it’s good to touch the brown brown grass of home.”

Bush told the audience, which erupted in applause and gave him a standing ovation, that they had witnessed “the first and final performance of George Bush and the Busharoos”.

The Gridiron Club holds an annual dinner at which journalists put on songs and skits lampooning Democrats and Republicans alike.

Kids, pets, parking: Honda courts female drivers

TOKYO (Reuters Life!) – Honda does not believe women are worse drivers than men.

But just in case, the Japanese car maker has published a driving guide for women with instructions on how to pump petrol by yourself, how to safely transport children and pets and, of course, how to park.

The pamphlet, released in Japanese “erases all your fears about driving,” Honda said in a statement.

“We would like to let all women know how to drive safely. We would like to minimize accidents of women drivers,” a Honda Motor Co. spokesman said.

Asked whether the publication implied women were worse drivers than men, the spokesman said: “We don’t think so. There are some specific cases of women drivers, and we focus on those cases.”

The pamphlet also gives advice for aging female drivers and has sections on environmental awareness, saving fuel and driving safely at night.

‘Ninja’ creators ready for ‘Killer Tomatoes’ remake

NEW YORK (Reuters/Hollywood Reporter) – “Attack of the Killer Tomatoes!” – a cult monster movie sometimes billed as the worst film of all time – is cooking up a comeback.

Kent Nichols and Douglas Sarine, creators of the hit Web series “Ask a Ninja,” are writing an adaptation of the 1978 opus, with Nichols set to make his directorial debut.

“Attack of the Killer Tomatoes!” is the masterwork of a generation,” Nichols said. “We can only aspire to recapture that magic.”

No changes to the original plot have been revealed, but it still is expected to revolve around genetically altered tomatoes on the warpath.

Nichols and Sarine’s satirical “Ninja” shorts have garnered more than 80 million Web views and won best series at the 2006 YouTube Video Awards. Their “Ninja” commentator has appeared on National Public Radio and VH1’s “Best Week Ever.”

The original “Tomatoes” spawned the Fox Kids Network’s “ATV” cartoon series and the 1988 feature sequel “Return of the Killer Tomatoes,” which helped launch George Clooney’s career.

Sudoku

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

West

GHarb