



March 19, 2008

*Serving Task Force Marne*

## U.S. Senators walk the streets of Iskandariyah

4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

JSS ISKAN – A congressional delegation consisting of Senators John McCain, of Arizona; Joseph Lieberman, of Connecticut; and Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina, visited Iskandariyah, Iraq, March 17 where they discussed the security, governance and economic progress of the city with Coalition forces.

Maj Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, accompanied the delegation from Baghdad. The group began their visit at the Iskandariyah Joint Security Station, where Lynch and Col. Thomas James, commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div., briefed the senators, giving them an overview of the area of operations surrounding Iskandariyah and the current status of the developing community.

James briefed the delegates on the brigade's current focus: securing the population, defeating sectarian violence, interdicting accelerants into Baghdad and increasing the capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces, Government of Iraq and the Iraqi economy.

Lynch stressed to the senators that the focus for Iskandariyah and other communities at similar stages of development was no longer security but stability, adding that Multi-National Division - Center is focused on capacity-building. He referred to money as a "munition," saying that it was "more important than bullets" in MND-C's efforts to assist the Iraqis in increasing stability.

Lynch also said that provincial elections are a necessary first step to further stabilization of the region.

Following the briefing, the group walked through the Iskandariyah market. The senators stopped to interact with local citizens before arriving at the nahia council building. There, the senators asked members of the council for their perspectives



Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis

Senator John McCain, of Arizona; Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division; and Senator Joseph Lieberman, of Connecticut, check out a fruit stand in the marketplace in Iskandariyah, Iraq, March 17. Senators Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina, McCain and Lieberman were in Iraq to meet with Iraqi leaders and senior U.S. military officials.

on community issues such as schools and local services. Council Chair Sabah Kafaji emphasized that Iraqis have only one choice right now – to move forward and not backward.

During the visit, Lynch stressed to the senators the importance of the Sons of Iraq programs in both providing employment and helping make the region safer for its citizens, ISF and Coalition forces.

Lynch said Coalition forces have al-Qaeda "on the ropes" and the ISF are beginning to wage a more aggressive fight against criminal elements.

In response to a question from Lieberman about the level of support the GoI has given the Sunni population, James said that it recently fund-

ed several projects in the province, including a street-paving project in nearby Jurf as Sakhr, a primarily Sunni community. Getchell said Iskandariyah's population is currently about 60 percent Shia and 40 percent Sunni.

James also emphasized to the senators that ISF leaders do not consider themselves Sunni or Shia, but Iraqi.

Also present at the visit were Lt. Col. Michael Getchell, commander of 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, attached to 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.; Capt. Mike Penney, Company A, 2-502nd Inf. Regt.; Col. Ali, Iskandariyah Iraqi Police chief; and Lt. Col. Sa'eed, commander of 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division.

# Night raid leads to capture of high-value target

**SPC. BEN HUTTO**

3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER – A high-value target was captured during a night raid in Narhwan by Soldiers of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team March 16.

Scouts from Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, currently attached to 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery, cleared three houses during the mission and detained three men for questioning, in addition to the target.

The HVT was wanted by Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition forces for his role in several improvised explosive device attacks. He was suspected of smuggling weapons and explosives to several criminal groups throughout Iraq.

Soldiers uncovered a small cache in the HVT's home containing an AK-47 assault rifle, two shotguns, a bayonet and a small quantity of small arms ammunition.

"Everything went perfectly," said Capt. Jared Albright, from Lancaster, Pa., commander of Troop B. "Our guys did everything according to plan and it went exactly as we rehearsed it."

First Lt. James Self, from Mobile, Ala., platoon leader in Troop B, said the capture of the target was important.



Spc. Ben Hutto

Capt. Jared Albright, from Lancaster, Pa., the commander of Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cav. Regt., searches a home during a night raid in Narhwan, Iraq, March 16.

(Below) A scout from Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cav. Regt., rushes toward a house during the night raid.

"The target was a really bad guy," he said. "It's a very good thing that he is off the streets. His capture not only makes Narhwan a safer place, it makes Iraq, as a whole, safer."

The earlier this month, Troop B detained another HVT in a raid outside of Narhwan.

"This isn't the first time we've done this," said Staff Sgt. Denis Pettitt, from DeRidder, La., the troop's operations noncommissioned officer. "On average, we've been capturing about one high-value target a month, so our guys know what do."

Troop B is mainly comprised of

scouts serving their first deployment, but the troop's performance hasn't suffered due to lack of experience.

"Our new guys have performed well," Pettitt said. "Part of that has to do with our NCOs. They keep our guys calm and have done a good job getting them ready for those situations. They stay calm and haven't gotten a big head about our successes."

The 3-1st Cav. Regt. and 1-10th FA are assigned to the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Benning, Ga., and have been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.



## THE Dog Face Daily

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# Microgrants enable tailors to tackle tall order

**CAPT. ALLISON FLANNIGAN**  
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

**CAMP STRIKER** – Three residents of Yusifiyah, Iraq, are about to receive an order for 400 Iraqi flags.

The three men, who all own separate tailor shops in the Yusifiyah market, formed a consortium to pool their tailoring talents to complete an order none of them could finish alone.

“They’ve seen the light about the strength through association and they hope to continue on to more success,” said Lou Lantner, embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team leader for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Two of the three men received microgrants funded by the U.S. State Department. Both used their \$2,500 microgrants to fix up their small shops and give their businesses a boost.

Sgt. 1st Class Dale Kramer, from the ePRT at Patrol Base Yusifiyah, recommended approval of the tailors’ microgrants.

“Our small microgrants of \$2,500 won’t put a hundred people to work in a factory but it is giving the little guy a chance to get into the game and build an independent business that he can grow,” Kramer said.

Kramer, a native of Grand Rapids,

Mich., is responsible for 70 microgrants in Yusifiyah and has nearly 200 grant applications pending. He specialized in small business development in his civilian job and has a knack for selecting promising grant applicants.

“We never, never fail to follow what Kramer advises; he’s right all the time,” said Lantner, who works for the State Department and is the approving authority for Kramer’s grant requests.

Kramer talks to each one of the microgrant recipients at least a twice a month. One of the tailors in the consortium, Jawdet Hussein Abdul, is an older man who reminds Kramer of his father.

“When we started talking about this project I saw a spark come to the man’s eyes,” Kramer said of Abdul. “After five years of conflict and watching his business crumble, he was going to get back into the game.”

Kramer has met with all three tailors on several occasions to discuss formation of the consortium and the flag contract. The men agreed that Abdul should be the manager of the group.

“I invited all three of them to come in and gave them a low-down about the possibility of a project,” Kramer said of the 400 flag order. “The three



Sgt. 1st Class Dale Kramer

Selah Abas Hussein shows off a sample of stitching he made with a machine purchased through a microgrant. Hussein sells his wares in his new shop in the Yusifiyah market.

of them decided to pool their talents and work together.”

The contract for the flags is worth about \$4,000. The flags are being purchased with quick-reaction funds for the 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT) and will be distributed during Rakasan operations and events.

“There is that spark of entrepreneurship, the desire to earn their living by working hard (to) provide a better life for their families,” Kramer said. “Most don’t want a handout but rather a hand up.”

## Safety Thought of the Day

### Canal Crossing Considerations

Follow These Safety Reminders:

- Drivers and TC’s must be familiar with the capabilities of their assigned vehicles and operate within those limitations.
- Risk assessments should address obstacles along the route of travel and mitigation procedures.
- Route recons should ensure roadways are solid (particularly after rainfall) and are wide enough to permit safe passage of the vehicles.
- Periodically inspect all culvers and bridge foundations for unsafe conditions and serviceability.
- Use caution when crossing bridges or canal crossings, expect the unexpected.
- Avoid operating vehicles too close to the shoulder of the road.

- Brief and rehearse roll over drills and seat belt use.
- Emphasize crew coordination, particularly in identifying and reacting to hazards.



File photo

## Headline Highlights

# 69-year old solo sailor; man to put life up for auction online

## Sailor takes on Pacific in wave-powered boat

TOKYO (Reuters) – A Japanese sailor has set out from Hawaii for Japan, hoping to complete the 4,400 mile journey using only the power of the waves beneath his boat.

Garlanded with flowers, 69-year-old adventurer Kenichi Horie waved from the deck of his catamaran-like boat as he set off on the latest of many challenges he has taken on since he became the first Japanese to sail solo across the Pacific in 1962, a video of his departure from Hawaii showed.

The vessel for his latest adventure, the Suntory Mermaid II, has two wings in front which convert the energy from waves into a movement similar to a dolphin's kicks, making it the world's first boat to be powered by the vertical motion of waves.

"Twenty years ago while sailing, an accident broke my main mast which actually fell in the sea," the white-haired Horie said before setting sail on Sunday local time from Honolulu.

"The boat kept rocking and I thought how great it would be to actually harness the power of those waves to push the boat forward."

He plans to reach his destination – the port of Hino, about 280 miles southwest of Tokyo – at a leisurely pace.

"The speed of the boat is just faster than a human walking pace, perhaps not quite a jogging pace. At this rate, I plan to take two and a half months to

get to Japan," Horie said.

The trip is meant in part to promote the commercial viability of the invention, which Horie says will bring a new option to those seeking to travel in an environmentally friendly way.

Horie, who has sailed around the world solo, traveled the Pacific in a yacht made of recycled beer cans in 2002.

## Man's life in Australia for sale

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) – A painful breakup with his wife has prompted a man to put his entire life – his house, his car, his job, even his friends – up for sale online in an effort to start over.

Ian Usher, a British immigrant to Australia, said Tuesday he would auction everything he owns and more on e-Bay starting June 22.

"On the day it's all sold and settled, I intend to walk out of my front door with my wallet in one pocket and my passport in the other, nothing else at all," Usher says on his Web site.

Up for bid is Usher's three bedroom house in the western city of Perth and everything inside it, his car, motorcycle, jet ski and parachuting gear.

Usher says he is also selling a one-time introduction to his friends and a trial run at his job – a plan endorsed by his friends and his employer.

In media interviews on Tuesday, Usher said he wants a fresh start after realizing that most things in his current life remind him of the relationship he had with the wife of five years whom he

broke up with more than a year ago.

"Everything that I have – the furniture in the house – all has memories attached to it," Usher, 44, told Seven Network television. "It's time to shed the old, and in with the new."

Usher said his life will be sold in one lot, and that bidders should expect to pay more than \$390,000, which is the upper end of a realtor's valuation of his house that he has posted online.

Joy Jones, who co-owns the rug store in Perth where Usher worked as a shop assistant, said she liked the auction idea and wanted to help out. Joy Jones Rugs is offering the successful bidder a two-week trial, which could be extended for three months and then become permanent if it works out.

"When Ian came with this idea – because we had seen him go through a breakup of marriage and pain and bits and pieces – I thought it was really exciting," Jones said. "We thought, why not give it a go?"

Usher said his friends in Perth had also proved willing to be introduced to the highest bidder – allowing him to advertise his auction as offering a complete lifestyle.

He said he hopes to set off traveling, including a visit to his mother in England, as soon as the auction is over.

"My current thoughts are to then head to the airport, and ask at the flight desk where the next flight with an available seat goes to, and to get on that and see where life takes me from there," he wrote online.

## Sudoku

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

## ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

distance

meh-sah-feh