

THE

Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Marne Rugged continues in honor of fallen

SGT. BEN BRODY

4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – In a bid to establish a formidable U.S. security presence near Suwayrah, Iraq, Soldiers began construction of Patrol Base Summers amid the ruins of a former Iraqi Air Force Base March 15.

The patrol base is named for Staff Sgt. Vincent Summers, who paid the ultimate sacrifice with 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, attached to 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. The establishment of this base is part of Task Force Marne's latest operation, Marne Rugged.

In a huge convoy of fighting vehicles and tractor trailers, Soldiers from Company A, 2-69 pushed toward the Tigris River from Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq.

In stark contrast to the push to set up Patrol Base Kelsey, Iraq, in December, Soldiers encountered almost no resistance and found the destroyed base uninhabited.

"I think there was a 'shock and awe' effect on the local people, to see so much combat power arrive so suddenly," explained Capt. James Browning, Company A commander.

As part of the company secured the patrol base area, Company A's Red Platoon and Iraqi Army Soldiers swept through a neighboring village, shaking hands and greeting their new neighbors over chai.

"Tactically, this spot is key to controlling the larger brigade's area of operations..."

– Capt. James Browning
commander, Company A



Sgt. Ben Brody

Soldiers from 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, load HESCO barriers onto a flatbed truck after the materials were air-dropped into the desert near Patrol Base Summers, Iraq, March 16.

Their Bradleys and Humvees idling on the main road, Soldiers spent nearly eight hours walking from house to house by the shortest route possible – often through barnyards full of huge cows.

"It's sometimes tough to tell when you first meet people, but the Iraqis seem pretty receptive to us being here," said 1st Lt. Stephen Eldridge, Company A fire support officer. "Some people offered us chai and they were all waving to us when we left. We certainly did our best to make a good first impression."

Soldiers from Red Platoon and Iraqi troops cataloged residents' personal weapons and met with the village sheikh.

During the patrol, a group of chil-

dren followed the Soldiers around, cracking jokes and trying out their English on the troops.

One boy of about four had a filthy, bloodstained bandage wrapped around his head – his father said he was hit by a rock while playing with other children.

Pfc. Vince Richardson, a medic with Company A, set down his 50-pound aid bag and went to work, cleaning the wound and replacing the dressing. The boy winced, but didn't cry, as Richardson dabbed the wound with antiseptic.

As Red Platoon returned to PB Summers, a small dust storm rolled in, turning the sky a deep red. The Soldiers ate a quick meal and slept in their trucks,

See SUMMERS, page 3

Soldiers help Iraqi boy get prosthetic leg

1-30TH INF. REGT. UPAR
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – A 10-year-old boy from Arab Jabour was doing chores near his home along the Tigris River when he stepped on an improvised explosive device Nov. 18.

Abdul Razak Ra'ad Mutter Al Jabouri lost his right arm and leg and was nearly killed in the blast. Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division rushed to his aid and had Abdul taken to the Ibn Sina hospital in the International Zone, run by the 86th Combat Support Hospital.

Now, three and a half months later, Abdul is walking again with the help of a prosthetic leg.

Abdul was released from the hospital two weeks after the IED exploded. Arab Jabour had very few options for medical care, leaving little hope for Abdul and his road to recovery.

To get Abdul the help he needed, the same Company A Soldiers helped transport him and his family to numerous appointments in Baghdad to get him fitted for a prosthetic leg.

"It is a great thing for us to be able to help Abdul recuperate and return to a somewhat normal life," said 1st Lt. Charley Staab, from Novi, Mich., a platoon leader in Company A and the first on the scene when Abdul was injured.

The Soldiers took Abdul and his family to Baghdad March 15 for the prosthetic leg.



Courtesy photo

Sgt. David Tenorio, Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, pushes Abdul Razak al Jabouri for the last time. Abdul received a prosthetic leg March 15 at the Ibn Sina hospital in the International Zone.

"It's rewarding to see some good come from such a tragedy."

– Cpl. Todd Smith
Company A

"It's rewarding to see some good come from such a tragedy," said Cpl. Todd Smith, from Lubbock, Texas, Company A.

Sgt. David Ipock said protecting civilians inspires him to work hard so Iraqis can have a life without terrorism. "It's what motivates you to stay vigilant the most, to prevent more loss of life and limb," the Greenville, N.C., native said.

For Abdul, getting the prosthetic leg is only half of his recovery process. He will make another trip to Baghdad in the coming weeks for his prosthetic arm.

THE Dog Face Daily

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214th Fires Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SUMMERS: *New PB near Suwayrah*

From Page 1

waiting for their next mission that night.

Around midnight, the platoon set out into the desert surrounding the patrol base and climbed one of the many small ordnance bunkers that dot the area. After some slipping and sliding on the smooth, steeply-angled concrete roof, the troops pulled each other to the top.

After a few hours silently scanning the windswept desert, the platoon slid two by two down the bunker and hiked back to Summers.

The next morning, another convoy of flatbed trucks bearing concrete barriers and other fortifications arrived and an Air Force C-17 cargo jet air-dropped 40 pallets of construction materials near the patrol base.

As the huge green parachutes floated to the desert floor, a passing Bedouin goat herder jumped up and down, shouting at the sky.

Soldiers from 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th BCT, gathered up the pallets with a forklift and trucked them to Summers.

"We did the air-drop because we could, not because we had to," said 2nd Lt. Scott Dyer, the convoy security platoon leader for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 703rd BSB. "The air assets were available, and there's plenty of space – it's a good ex-

perience for the logistics personnel."

Soldiers from 703rd BSB will continue to bring supplies and Company A will continue to build up the base during the last two months of their deployment, Browning said.

"By the time we leave, I'd like to see the patrol base fully operational, to the point where a company can come in and set up their operations in 24 hours," said Browning, who is from Waynesville, N.C.

The base will serve as a launching point for essential services projects to the neighboring communities and Suwayrah, as well as combat operations.

"Tactically, this spot is key to controlling the larger brigade's area of operations – you can stage lots of equipment here and there's a good standoff distance from civilian roads and houses," Browning said. "Partnering with the Iraqi Security Forces, we can make inroads into Suwayrah."

Lt. Col. Majid, commander of Suwayrah's 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 8th IA Division, sends his troops to work with Company A on joint patrols.

"The big thing here is providing essential services to the people – they're proud of their communities and fought hard to kick al-Qaeda out," Browning said. "The farmers here depend on their crops, which means they need water and electricity. With us here, we can help the Government of Iraq provide those services."

The results are in: Dog Face Soldiers win in Department of the Army Keith L. Ware journalism competition

Category E: News (Military)

2nd Place: Sgt. Ben

Brody – Soldiers make a surprise entrance, 3rd Infantry Division, FORSCOM

Category K: Photojournalism (Military)

HM: Sgt. Luis Delgado

dillo – Patching relations: 1-30th hosts MEDOP, Iraqi doctors take lead; 302nd MPAD, U.S. Army Reserve Command

Category R: Field publication

1st Place: Spartan

Chronicle – 2nd BCT Public Affairs, 3rd Infantry Division

- Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
- Sgt. Jason Stadel
- Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
- Sgt. Randall Townsend
- 1Lt. Kalen Smith
- Maj. James Brownlee

ROCK OF THE MARNE!

Safety Thought of the Day Headspace and Timing

- Improper headspace and timing can cause malfunctions, damage to the weapon and injury to personnel. Ensure personnel are trained in this procedure.
- Do not use headspace and timing gauges if they are bent, rusted or pitted.
- If the timing nut can be easily turned with one finger or it doesn't click as you move it, the nut's spring is too weak and it won't hold timing. Get the spring replaced.
- If the spring can't hold the barrel in place, the barrel turns during firing and headspace is lost. Test the spring by setting the correct headspace and then try to unscrew the barrel. If the barrel turns, the spring is weak or loose or the barrel

locking lugs may be worn.

- If the barrel and barrel extension threads are chipped or burred, it will be difficult to screw in the barrel. Even worse, you may think you've screwed in the barrel when you haven't. That means bad headspace. Stone any chips or burrs until they're smooth.
- Always set and check Headspace & Timing IAW TM 9-1005-213-10, June 2001.
- For additional requirements see TACOM Safety of Use Message 06-008 dated 13 Dec 05.
- Safety glasses, hearing protection, and protective clothing will be worn when repairing, firing or cleaning weapon.

Headline Highlights

Elderly off roads; dollar loses value; cartoon ambassador

Japanese police enticing elderly to give up driving

TOKYO (Reuters) – Tokyo businesses are to start offering benefits to elderly people who give up their drivers' licences, backing a police effort to cut back on the ballooning number of traffic accidents caused by drivers over 65.

Among more than 30 special offers, one small bank will give higher interest rates, while Mitsukoshi department store chain plans to provide free delivery from its Tokyo stores and a hotel will offer a 10 percent discount on meals in a program starting next month, Tokyo police said on their Web site.

"Have the courage to give up your licence," the police say on the site. "If you have lost confidence in your driving ... if your family says they are worried about you driving ... please think about handing in your licence."

Japan has the largest proportion of over-65s in the world and faces a growing problem with elderly drivers, who caused 100,000 traffic accidents last year, about twice the figure 10 years earlier, broadcaster NHK said.

Dollars tough to sell overseas

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) – The U.S. dollar's value is dropping so fast against the euro that small currency outlets in Amsterdam are turning away tourists seeking to sell their dol-

lars for local money while on vacation in the Netherlands.

"Our dollar is worth maybe zero over here," said Mary Kelly, an American tourist from Indianapolis, Indiana, in front of the Anne Frank house. "It's hard to find a place to exchange. We have to go downtown, to the central station or post office."

That's because the smaller currency exchanges – despite buy/sell spreads that make it easier for them to make money by exchanging small amounts of currency – don't want to be caught holding dollars that could be worth less by the time they can sell them.

The dollar hovered near record lows on Monday, with one euro worth around \$1.58 versus \$1.47 a month ago.

Cartoon to promote culture, anime as ambassador

TOKYO (AP) – Japan has created an unusual government post to promote animation, and named a perfect figure Wednesday to the position: a popular cartoon robot cat named Doraemon.

Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura appointed the cat an "anime ambassador," handing a human-sized Doraemon doll an official certificate at an inauguration ceremony, along with dozens of "dorayaki" red bean pancakes – his favorite dessert – piled on a huge plate.

Komura told the doll, with an un-

identified person inside, that he hoped he would widely promote Japanese animated cartoons, or "anime."

"Doraemon, I hope you will travel around the world as an anime ambassador to deepen people's understanding of Japan so they will become friends with Japan," Komura told the blue-and-white cat.

The appointment is part of Japan's recent effort to harness the power of pop culture in diplomacy. Japan also created an International Manga Award last year under comic enthusiast former Foreign Minister Taro Aso, who likened it to a "Nobel Prize" for an artist working abroad.

Manga, the name used for Japanese-style comic books, often combine complex stories with drawing styles that differ from their overseas superhero counterparts, particularly in their emphasis on cuteness.

This year, the ministry plans to arrange showings of a Doraemon film in Singapore, China, Spain, France and at other Japanese diplomatic missions around the world.

Doraemon – through voice actress Wasabi Mizuta, who spoke from behind a sliding paper screen – promised Komura that "through my cartoons, I hope to convey to people abroad what ordinary Japanese people think, our lifestyles and what kind of future we want to build."

Astro Boy, another cartoon icon, was named last November as ambassador for overseas safety.

Sudoku

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from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

good

zee-en