

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Road to hope through al Buaytha



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

First Lt. Bryan Diminico, platoon leader, 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, takes notes on training conducted March 25 at a Sons of Iraq checkpoint along the main road through al Buaytha. The platoon checks on the Sol daily to help train them on proper searching techniques, allowing them to practice under their guidance.

MEDEVAC unit supports fight south of Al Hillah

SGT. 1ST CLASS THOMAS MILLS
3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP STRIKER – Over the last week the Multi-National Division Center combat aviation brigade has provided valuable support to the Iraqi Security Forces who are battling Shia

extremists in the Al Hillah area.

More than 100 medical evacuation missions have been conducted to get Iraqi Security Forces and civilians immediate medical care.

Capt. Michael Kelly, aero-medical evacuation helicopter team leader, with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 238th

Aviation Regiment, flies MEDEVAC missions south of Al Hillah and toward Al Kut, in areas where fighting between ISF and criminal groups have picked up in recent days.

“We assist enemy, Iraqi Army and

See MEDEVAC, page 2

Cavalry unit responds to extremist activity

STAFF SGT. SEAN RILEY
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER – Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment and Iraqi Security Forces combated an increase in violence in and around Jisr Diyala, a town east of Baghdad, March 26-28.

On March 26, 3-1st Cav. Regt. Soldiers were engaged by small-arms fire from an estimated 20 extremists. During the days following, extremist activity increased, leading to AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade engaging five extremists in the early hours of March 28. During the three-day period, 11 extremists were killed, five wounded and another 23 detained by Iraqi National Police.

“We have seen a significant increase in enemy activity in the last two days in Jisr Diyala,” said Maj. David Guthrie, from Hampton, Va., operations officer for 3-1st Cav. Regt. “Two days ago, we had patrols involved in a sustained small-arms and rocket-propelled grenade engagements.”

Guthrie was involved in a firefight with extremists on the north side of Jisr Diyala March 27 while on a combat patrol.

“We were stopping to talk with the men at Sons of Iraq and National Police checkpoints,” he said. “We had received reports that the extremists were driving around with weapons telling the men at the checkpoints to throw down their arms and desert their posts or face being attacked.”

“I’ve been encouraged by our ISF and SoI partners’ determination to stop the violence.”

– Maj. Dave Fivecoat
3rd HBCT

Caught in a cross-fire, Guthrie and his patrol called for assistance. Soon, U.S. Army attack helicopters and fighter aircraft were assisting the patrol, while the NP cleared the extremists from an adjacent palm grove, Guthrie said.

In a separate incident during the early-morning hours of March 28, five men were observed acting suspiciously in the city. Attack aviation pilots conducted a further reconnaissance and determined hostile intent. The attack helicopters engaged the men, killing all five.

“During the three days of fighting in Jisr Diyala, the ISF and Sons of Iraq held their ground and took the fight to the enemy,” said Maj. Dave Fivecoat, from Delaware, Ohio, the 3rd HBCT operations officer. “I’ve been encouraged by our ISF and SoI partners’ determination to stop the violence.”

The 3-1st Cav. Regt., is assigned to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.

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Iraqi Police,” said Kelly of the injured people his unit flies to Coalition forces facilities. His unit is currently attached to Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division.

On a recent mission Kelly’s helicopter transported a man targeted as a high value individual by Coalition forces. The man had been seriously injured in the fighting, having been shot in the leg with the bullet severing his femoral artery.

Within 12 minutes of being called Kelly’s helicopter landed in a soccer field south of Hillah. The pilots had been told that there were enemy still in the area, but Apache helicopters from 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd CAB were circling overhead as protection. Minutes later they had the man at the hospital, saving his life, and giving military intelligence another source of information on enemy operations.

Capt. Bryon Blohm, executive officer, Co. C, 2-238th Avn., said his MEDEVAC helicopters have been working hard to support the ISF and civilians in his unit’s area of operations south of Hillah. Much of what they’ve seen has been wounds suffered because of combat, he said.

The MEDEVAC unit has picked up plenty of civilians caught in the fighting as well, Kelly added.

He said there is no distinction between enemy or friendly forces when it comes to his unit transporting injured people to the hospital. Everyone being flown on his birds gets the same care. His unit recently transported an extremist who had sought medical attention from the ISF.

“Things like that we see all the time,” he said. “Anyone in our AO (area of operation) we support ... It’s anybody and everybody.”

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

Soldiers assess orchards in al Buaytha

SGT. KEVIN STABINSKY
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – Fruit orchards are a viable industry in al Buaytha, providing income for area farmers and affecting other aspects of the local economy.

Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, are currently gathering information on all the farmers, finding out their needs, how much they produce, how many workers tend the land and how much land they own. Based on this knowledge, the unit can help the farmers increase their productivity.

This database of information will help the unit determine if any farms need additional workers. As the Sons of Iraq program is phased out, other forms of employment will be essential. Finding opportunities for the SoI may help create jobs for those not accepted into the Iraqi Security Forces. These opportunities range from work on the farms, to related agricultural



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

First Lt. Bryan Diminico, platoon leader for 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment (right) takes down information with a translator, Spc. Simon Nbyenye (left), from an orchard farmer in al Buaytha, Iraq.

jobs such as canal cleaning and widening, water pump maintenance, services to move produce to market,

work to repair roads used for transporting goods and mechanics to fix transportation vehicles.

Safety Thought of the Day

Slip, Trip and Fall Prevention

- Educate personnel to identify/mark eliminate hazards that can cause slips, trips and falls.
- Use flashlights at night when tactical situation allows.
- Maintain situational awareness at all times.
- Plan and know your route of travel.
- When climbing:
 - Inspect footwear for serviceability, replace unserviceable footwear.
 - Wear gloves when needed for better grip.
 - Use the buddy system.
 - Maintain three points of contact.
 - Utilize fall protection when appropriate.
- Promptly clean up spills.
- Good housekeeping is a must: keep paths of travel clear of obstructions.

- Utilize (CRM) & S.T.O.P.P. (Stop, Think, Observe, Plan and Proceed).



File photo

Headline Highlights

Lawmaker robbed; wrond woman IDd; bird loves donuts

Illinois lawmaker robbed of \$7

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. (AP) - A 77-year-old Illinois state representative is happy to be alive after a man with a gun pushed his way into her home and robbed her of \$7.

Wyvetter H. Younge was not injured in the robbery that occurred around noon Friday.

Younge said she thought her son had knocked on her door and opened it, but instead found an armed man. He told her to get on her hands and knees, then grabbed her purse and ran.

Younge, a Democrat, said she didn't recognize the man, who wore a red hat and red jacket and dark pants. She said she's going to pray for him.

"This robbery and what's happening to this community is the result of a lack of a supportive system for our youth. We need jobs," she said. "This happened in broad daylight at noon. We need a mental health support system. This is further evidence of that."

Illinois State Police are investigating.

Police apologize for using wrong camera images

MLA CROSSE, Wis. (AP) -Police in La Crosse are a little red-faced right now.

They're apologizing after issuing an alert about a woman suspected of using a stolen credit card at a convenience store. They also helpfully issued surveil-

lance video images of her.

Someone who works with the woman saw it and recognized her.

"The woman said her co-worker was kind of joking around and said, 'I thought I saw you on Crime Stoppers,'" said Officer Drew Gavrilos. "The woman hopped online and watched the video and found it was her."

But she hadn't done the crime.

Gavrilos said the mistake happened when police matched surveillance video with cash register information, trying to identify whoever used the stolen card.

They didn't realize there were two similar transactions about the same time.

"We had two very similar looking people come to the register about 10 to 20 seconds apart," each buying similar things, Gavrilos said. "It was a one-in-a-million type of thing."

They picked the wrong one for the Crime Stoppers information, and the public service announcement ran for three days before the mix up caused it to be pulled.

"We feel horrible about the mistake and want to do all we can to minimize any inconvenience or embarrassment this woman may have experienced," Gavrilos said.

Police sent the woman a personal note of apology and produced a new Crime Stoppers message with corrected information and a public apology, he said.

Police did not release the name of the woman.

Steven Seagull returns year after year for motel cake

DULUTH, Minn. (AP) - Steven Seagull has returned to the Super 8 motel here, looking for his customary cake doughnut. Year after year, the ring-billed gull has tapped at the lobby's front door until a staff member gives him the doughnut, said general manager Jodi Chambers.

"If it's quiet in the lobby, you can hear him tapping on it," Chambers said. "But if we're busy, he starts squawking like crazy."

Steven returned Wednesday.

Chambers said she's sure it's the same bird because he behaves the same way every year. For one thing, Steven chases away other gulls looking for his food.

"We don't feed them if there's more than one, and he's figured that out," Chambers said.

Leslie Larsen, the education director of the Lake Superior Zoo, said Steven Seagull has learned to respond to positive reinforcement.

"What I do know is that animals, they don't necessarily have to be intelligent to respond to what we call operant conditioning," she said. "Without knowing it or meaning to, they've trained that gull. They've given him a positive consequence to come back."

Whatever the reason, Chambers said Steven is a hit. "The guests love it," she said. "I've had a few come in and say 'We came to check out your bird.'"

Sudoku

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to Saturday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

enemy

AAh-doo