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Serving Task Force Marne

Soldiers clear road of IEDs, residents to return home

SGT. LUIS DELGADILLO
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – Coalition forces, residents of Maderiyah and a team of Iraqi Army Soldiers helped clear five improvised explosive devices from roads north of Joint Security Site W-1.

During the mission, Soldiers of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, a route clearance team and an explosive ordnance disposal team successfully cleared a vital road for residents of Maderiyah and Kutimiyah.

First Lt. Samuel Scott Gilstrap, executive officer of Battery B, said when Coalition forces arrived in the area, the road was impassable and the bridge which existed between the



Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

(From left) 1st Lt. Andrew Gibbons, platoon leader; Staff Sgt. Robert C. Swartz and Sgt. Kyle J. Nygaard, platoon sergeants; and Spc. Ian C. Loud, a combat medic; all with Battery B, 1-9 FA, 2nd BCT, review their route during Operation New York north of Joint Security Site W-1.

See CLEAR, page 2

Aviation takes fight to criminals

3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP STRIKER – Attack helicopters from Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division have stepped up in the fight against criminal elements south of Baghdad.

Since March 24, Apache and Kiowa helicopters have killed 36 enemy fighters in support of troops on the ground.

The recent fighting against criminals south of Baghdad and in Wasit Province has highlighted the benefit of air support to Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces, but it isn't something new, said Col. Dan Ball, commander of 3rd CAB.

"We've always taken the fight to the enemy," Ball said.

The 3rd CAB, based out of Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga., has been deployed to Baghdad International Airport since May. The 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment Apaches and the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment Kiowas support Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces in the area stretching across the Tigris and Euphrates rivers south of Baghdad.

Earlier in the 3rd CAB's deployment, the fight was primarily against al-Qaeda in Iraq fighters south of Baghdad as they tried to feed sectarian violence in the capital.

When small groups of criminals began clashing with Iraqi Security Forces, Ball said, it was natural for his helicopters to support the fight.

"As opposed to Sunni extremists,

al-Qaeda in Iraq for instance, we have Shi'a extremists we're going after (as well). We don't differentiate," he said. "This is an ISF-led fight and many of our engagements down south have been in support of ISF."

Since March 22, Multi-National Division – Center, the division 3rd CAB supports, has detained more than 200 criminals, killed 40 Shi'a criminal fighters, found more than 60 weapons caches - of which 20 were turned in by Iraqis - and found and cleared nearly 30 improvised explosive devices on area roads.

As the ISF takes the fight to Shi'a criminals, areas south of Baghdad continue to improve, Ball said. Schools are opening, agriculture and businesses are improving and people are working toward a better Iraq, Ball said. "Everywhere we turn, we're making progress in MND-C."

CLEAR: *Resident return home after Soldiers clear roads*

From Page 1

two communities was destroyed.

Gilstrap, a native of Pickens, S.C., said in order to prevent al-Qaeda from attacking JSS W-1, Coalition forces had to destroy the bridge.

Previous attempts at clearing the road had proven unsuccessful, Gilstrap said. Just eight days prior, a Soldier from the route clearance team and a member of the EOD team were injured when a pressure-plate IED exploded during a similar mission.

Both teams were back for another attempt at clearing the road.

Staff Sgt. Robert C. Swartz, a platoon sergeant with Battery B, and his fellow Soldiers spent the better part of the morning and afternoon carefully walking behind route clearance vehicles and visiting residents in homes near JSS W-1.

They also had the job of searching vacant houses and clearing them of any IED threat. Swartz, a native of Hinesville Ga., said one of the Iraqi men helping clear the road told Soldiers his house was one of the vacant homes.

He had fled and sought Coalition assistance after discovering two IEDs in his driveway. The two other residents present were volunteers with a knack for finding the deadly devices. By late morning, the skills they possessed came in handy.


At the older man's house the two men located the day's first IED, which consisted of two 57 mm projectiles and a pressure strip initiating device.

Incidentally, the three men assisting with the search also found the other four IEDs, which consisted of another IED composed of two 57 mm projectiles, two 105 mm mortars with detonation cord and one 120mm mortar with detonation cord.

Once the EOD team had destroyed the munitions in two controlled detonations, the road was once again safe for civilian travel.

Though the road is clear, more work is needed in order to reconnect the road between Kutimiyah, to the north, and Madariyah, in the south, where JSS W-1 is located.

With security in the region much improved, Soldiers of Battery B remain committed to keeping the region safe and facilitating a smooth transition for the eventual transfer to Iraqi Security Forces.



Task Force Marne
Prayer Breakfast
April 9
6:30 a.m.
Marne DFAC

Guest Speaker:
Chaplain (COL) Pat Hash
 MNC-I Chaplain

Special Music:
Striker Chapel Praise Band
 POC: DIV Chaplain Office
 822-7483

"Rock of the Marne"

THE **Dog Face Daily**

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 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division
 214th Fires Brigade
 7th Sustainment Brigade
 720th Military Police Battalion
 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Coalition, ISF conduct combined operation

SGT. NATALIE ROSTEK
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER – Policemen from 3rd Brigade, 1st National Police Division, led by Col. Emad, organized and executed a clearing operation March 29 in Jisr Diyala.

With assistance from 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team's National Police Transition Team; the Jisr Diyala Iraqi Police; and local members of the Sons of Iraq, the 3/1 NP detained four criminals and recovered two rocket-propelled grenade launchers, five RPG warheads, 37 AK-47 assault rifles and 18 magazines.

"This was a planned operation that showed the NP re-establishing security in Jisr Diyala and the local government supporting security," said Capt. Chardon Hyde, from Port Angeles, Wash., assistant operations officer for 3-1 Cav. Regt.

According to Capt. Damond Davis, from Montgomery, Ala., fire support officer for 3-1 Cav. Regt., Jisr Diyala has been peaceful over the past several months allowing Coalition forces and the Government of Iraq to con-

duct electricity, water, sewage and road projects improving the area.

Criminal activity increased in Jisr Diyala recently, he said. Coalition forces, ISF and SoI were engaged with direct fire multiple times in the past week.

"The operation allowed us to clear these weapons out of the area to deny the extremists the ability to conduct these types of attacks in the future," Davis said.

According to 1st Lt. Christopher Scogin, from San Antonio, Texas, assistant information officer for 3-1 Cav. Regt., squadron leaders received reports from credible local sources indicating criminals were staging operations from Jisr Diyala.

"This operation highlights the ISF's ability to work with Coalition



Courtesy photo

A policeman from 3rd Brigade, 1st National Police Division, and a Soldier from 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, provide security during an operation in Jisr Diyala, Iraq.

forces and quickly act on credible intelligence to deny extremists the ability to conduct attacks," he said.

The 3-1 Cav. Regt., 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Benning, Ga. has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.

Safety Thought of the Day Negligent Discharge Prevention

- Weapon status and clearing procedures must be understood and enforced by all Soldiers.
- Weapons must be cleared at the firing barrels, after missions, and upon arrival at FOB, COP, JSS, PB; unless at a location on a RED status.
- Ensure leadership is actively engaged with their Soldiers in validating that their crew served and small arms weapons are cleared.
- Remember to THINK:
 - Treat every weapon as if it's loaded.
 - Handle every weapon with care.
 - Identify the target before you fire.
 - Never point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot.
 - Keep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.

- References: 3ID Warfighter Handbook, Task Force Marne Standard and appropriate weapon's TM's.



File photo

Headline Highlights

Head on beach; double divorce; shovel rampage; jail break

Children find woman's head on beach

LONDON (Reuters) – Children playing on a Scottish beach discovered a woman's severed head in a plastic bag, police said on Tuesday.

The discovery, along with a hand, was made in the town of Arbroath, Tay-side police said. "Officers attended at a stretch of foreshore near to South Street shortly after 10:30 a.m. after the grim discovery was made by children playing on the beach," a statement said.

"They found what appears to be the head of a woman concealed in a plastic bag. A hand has also been recovered from the beach."

No other details were immediately available.

Malaysian man gets double whammy divorce

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) – When Roslan Ngah took a second wife, he might have wondered if she would get along with his first.

He need not have worried. The two women got on so well they decided to leave him at the same time.

Faced with their united stand, Roslan, a 44-year-old Malaysian Muslim, divorced his two wives, aged 46 and 35, in an Islamic Shariah Court in north-eastern Terengganu state on Tuesday, a lawyer said Wednesday.

According to Islamic law, a woman can submit a request to leave her husband, but the pronouncement of di-

vorice must come from the man or a court. Islam allows a man to have four wives.

Salwa Mansor, the second wife's lawyer, said the wives cited irreconcilable differences and other complaints.

The Star daily quoted Roslan as saying that he was aware his two wives had become close over the years.

"They are like good friends but I never imagined that both of them had collectively decided to divorce me," Roslan was quoted him as saying. "I never expected our marriages to end in this manner."

Roslan has four children with his first wife and two with his second.

Roslan reportedly said he would marry again, "God willing."

"If my fate says so, I have no qualms and this time I hope that my marriage will last forever," The Star quoted him as saying.

Man accused of rampage with snow shovel

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) – A South Dakota man faces three felony charges after he allegedly got drunk and went on a rampage with a snow shovel at a Bismarck gas station.

Tyler Kraft, 20, of Timber Lake, allegedly threatened two other men with the shovel on Saturday and used the shovel to damage a vehicle, a gas pump and glass doors at the station.

Police estimate total damages at more than \$10,000.

Kraft was charged with terrorizing, criminal mischief and unlawful entry to a motor vehicle.

Man escapes from jail, no-body notices

SAN ANTONIO (AP) – Law enforcement officials are trying to understand how a convicted felon managed to escape from a privately owned jail across the street from the police headquarters without anyone noticing his absence for a full day.

Esequiel Pena, 35, escaped from a private San Antonio jail sometime between Sunday afternoon and Monday afternoon. He remained at large Tuesday but was thought to be in the San Antonio area, said U.S. Marshals Service spokesman Thomas J. Smith.

Pena apparently escaped by pulling back chain-link fencing around a rooftop recreation yard and climbing down an eight-story fire escape, Smith said.

Pena was being held at the privately operated Central Texas Detention Facility for violating terms of his supervised release. He was previously convicted of an unspecified weapons charge and later re-arrested for a different offense, Smith said.

The facility, which has nearly 700 inmates, is operated by The GEO Group. Spokesman Pablo Paez said Tuesday the company is assisting the U.S. marshals' investigation, but he would not say why it took so long to discover Pena was gone.

Sudoku

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

help me

sah-ed-nee