

# THE Dog Face Daily

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*Serving Task Force Marne*



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

**Spc. Kelly Steckler (left), Chief Warrant Officer Matt Spawn (middle) and Sgt. Cardone Nixon, A Co. 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment perform last-minute preparations before flying north to Baghdad International Airport from Udairi Airfield, Kuwait. See Page 2 for story.**

## Paratroopers help team stop IED attacks

**SGT. MARCUS BUTLER**  
4/25TH INF. DIV. (ABN.)

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The current weapon of choice used by insurgents against Coalition Forces is roadside bombs also called improvised explosive devices.

Adding armor to vehicles and educating service members of the current threat level and situation are all efforts to combat these hidden threats or avoid them altogether. Despite the

efforts of new technology and individual Soldier training, avoiding each and every IED threat is nearly impossible.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment is a team of specially trained Soldiers whose mission is to seek out and destroy IED threats found by service members patrolling Iraq's streets.

However getting them there to accomplish the mission safely falls on the shoulders of the tactical escort

team from 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

Unlike most of the paratroopers with 1-40 CAV, who try to avoid these threats, these paratroopers load up in their vehicles and make their way toward the danger.

"Our mission is to provide security for the EOD and to allow them freedom of movement to investigate and

**See EOD, Page 3**



# MARNE 6 SENDS



## Take time to reflect on Memorial Day

**MAJ. GEN. RICK LYNCH**  
TF MARNE COMMANDER

The foyers of our command posts have become places for quiet remembrance.

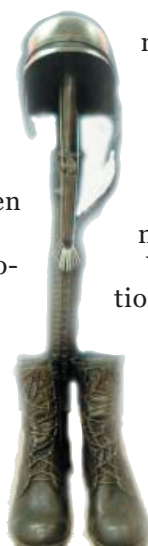
At the MND-C headquarters stands a wall with the images of Task Force Marne Soldiers who have given their all for our nation.

We will take time out and pause to reflect on Memorial Day.

At home, some will don "Buddy Poppies."

Others will visit national memorials, cemeteries and lay mementos in tribute to our nation's war dead.

Still others will take time off from work and enjoy the peace and freedom paid for hundreds of thousands of times.



Memorial Day should, for all of us, take on new meaning from this day forward. Let us all remember our friends, brothers and sisters who have given their lives in the name of freedom.

Let us also remember the long line of other Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who have gone before us and who gave us the freedom we all now cherish.

We must also remember the families of our nation's war dead.

They know the sacrifice of service better than any other. And they deserve our thoughts and our prayers.

Let us each resolve ourselves to make our continued service a living monument to their sacrifice.

**ROCK OF THE MARNE!**

## Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers arrive in Iraq

**CAB PAO**

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq — Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade arrived at Baghdad International Airport late May to begin their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 3rd CAB is based out of Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga.

The brigade will support the 3rd Infantry Division's operation in and around Baghdad, said Col. Daniel L. Ball, 3rd CAB commander. "We're here to support the surge policy put in place to quell the insurgency here

in Baghdad," said Ball.

The CAB deployed from Hunter Army Airfield to Kuwait in early May mostly intact, leaving its 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment behind. Working with the CAB in Baghdad is 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division deployed from Fort Drum, N.Y.

The cavalry regiment brings a unique capability to the brigade, said Ball. The 3-17 CAV's OH-58D Kiowa Warrior scout helicopters, with advanced optics and sensors, give the CAV Soldiers the ability to better see the enemy in support of the brigade's

operations, he said.

The 3rd CAB is normally made up of UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopters, and CH-47D Chinook helicopters.

This deployment marks the third time since 2003 that the CAB has deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The brigade's previous deployments were during the initial invasion into Iraq, and OIF III in 2005.

"We're continuing a proud tradition built by the Combat Aviation Brigade," Ball said.

### THE Dog Face Daily

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destroy various types of IEDs,” said 1st Lt. Luke Walsh, platoon leader and Columbus, Ga., native.

On call 24 hours a day, the tactical escort team conducts other types of missions in addition to escorting EOD.

“Along with EOD escort, my platoon conducts various other missions such as personal security detail for the Squadron Commander and serving as a quick reaction force when needed,” said Walsh. “We are a very important asset to the Squadron. We allow the Paratroopers to go out and conduct their mission without worrying about getting harmed in the process.”

“I like being on the team since we help keep people safe,” said Spc. Derek Townsend, a mortarman with the escort platoon and native of North Side Rogers Parks, Ill.

“It is a really adventurous job,” said Sgt. John Leon McGhee, II, native of Birmingham, Ala., and medic for the EOD escort team. “It gives me comfort to know that when our team goes out and helps to destroy another IED, it is making Iraq a safer place for everyone.”

“All of the Paratroopers on our team execute very well and without complacency. I feel as though I have some of the best Paratroopers in the entire Army,” said Walsh. “I am one of the fortunate people that can fully trust their noncommissioned officers. I supply the task, conditions and standards and the NCOs execute to perfection.”

Of the 375 missions the team has completed, the purpose never changes: make Iraq a safer place to live.



Photos by Sgt. Marcus Butler

**Above:** Paratroopers from 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4/25th Inf. Div. (Abn.), escort an Explosive Ordnance Detachment vehicle to a suspected improvised explosive device location in a town south of Baghdad.

**Left:** Paratroopers from 1-40th Cav. Regt., 4/25th Inf. Div. (Abn.) and members of the EOD team sit inside their vehicles as an IED is destroyed in a town south of Baghdad.



## Safety Thought of the Day

### Humvee Hot Weather Operation Tips

- Wear gloves when handling metal surfaces or steering wheels exposed to long durations of direct sunlight.
- Clean air filters and radiator fins daily when operating under extreme temperatures.
- Keep air conditioner fins free from dirt and sand.
- Humvee grills must remain clear of items to help prevent the vehicle from overheating.
- Allow engine to idle prior to shut down to allow cool down time with extreme heat.

# HEADLINE HIGHLIGHTS

## Steel-plated motel offers refuge in Mexico drug war

ROBIN EMMOTT  
REUTERS

MONTERREY, Mexico — A motel in northern Mexico is putting steel doors on its rooms to protect guests from kidnappings and shootings in an escalating war between rival drug cartels.

Owners of the Rancho El Trueno, or Thunder Ranch, began fortifying the highway motel near Monterrey a year ago but have decided to shield all 35 rooms as drug killings have worsened in the area in recent months. Complete with hot tubs, red imitation-leather beds, mirrored walls and striptease poles, the rooms are shuttered behind steel gates about 1.5 inches thick and some already have steel doors.

"We want people to have fun and be able to feel safe. Lovers come, big groups come, we are full on weekends," said Emilio Massa, the motel manager.

He said the owners came up with the

idea after guests in nearby motels were shot and kidnapped.

"Do drug gangs come? Well you never know, do you?" Massa said to the grating sound of machines cutting steel doors to put on the rooms. Thunder Ranch charges 150 pesos (\$13.80) for three hours or 400 pesos a night for a room. It also boasts a huge suite with a swimming pool, palm trees, a water slide, a sauna, pool tables and video screens.

"Our suite is booked up weeks ahead of time," Massa said.

In most roadside motels in northern Mexico, guests drive into a covered parking space and close a plastic curtain behind their car before entering their room.

But Massa says guests need more security than that.

"The violence is terrible," he said. "We found a dead body just a few meters (yards) away the other day."

At least 70 people have been killed in drug violence this year in Monterrey as a coalition of cartels run by Mexico's most wanted man, Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman, vies for control of smuggling routes run by the Gulf Cartel near Texas.

Nationwide, some 1,000 people have

died in drug-related killings this year and a military-backed assault on the gangs that smuggle narcotics into the United States has so far been unable to stop the violence.

## Swarm of bees forces passenger plane to land

REUTERS

LONDON — A passenger plane was forced to land after flying into a swarm of British bees Thursday.

The Palmair Boeing 737, with 90 passengers on board, had to return to Bournemouth Airport in southern England shortly after take-off following an engine surge. The pilot decided to abort the flight to Faro in Portugal and returned for safety checks. The plane's engine was thought to have become clogged with bees, the company said Friday. Huge clouds of bees have been seen around Bournemouth over the past few days, a spokeswoman said.

## Marne Weather Watch

Monday, May 28



Partly Cloudy

Low: 87F/High: 112F

Tuesday, May 29



Partly Cloudy

Low: 82F/High: 107F

## ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Where did they go?

*wen rah-how?*

## Sudoku

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to Saturday's puzzle:

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