

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne



Sgt. Marcus Butler

Paratroopers from 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division escort an Explosive Ordnance Detachment vehicle to a suspected improvised explosive device location in a town south of Baghdad.

Paratroopers respond to IED threats

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

BAGHDAD – In this stage of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the weapon of choice used by insurgents are roadside bombs also called improvised explosive devices.

Much of the efforts of the service members deployed to Iraq are focused on finding ways to combat these hidden threats or avoid them all together. By taking measures such as, adding more armor to vehicles and making service members more aware of the most current threat levels and situations, Paratroopers can better combat the deadly threat.

Despite all the efforts of new technology and individual Soldier training, avoiding each and every IED threat is nearly impossible. For that reason, a few service members' sole mission is to seek out the danger and eliminate it.

These service members are part of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal detachment, whose training allows them to find and destroy any IED threat found by the service members patrolling the streets of Iraq.

Getting these specialized war fighters to their objective is a mission all its own. A mission that the tactical escort team

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

Taking their job seriously barely encompasses the job they are tasked with. Unlike most of the Paratroopers with 1-40 CAV, who try to avoid these threats, the escort team load up 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 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 all types of missions along with 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."

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Mothers send 'Bear hugs' to Polar Bears

SPC. CHRIS McCANN
2ND BCT, 10TH MTN. DIV. (LI) PAO

YUSUFYAH, Iraq — The War on Terrorism has sent thousands of troops to distant countries. Most of them receive at least occasional packages from friends and family to lessen the loneliness and boredom that can set in, but some — for any number of reasons — don't get much of anything.

One mother decided that she can't help every Soldier get mail, but she could help everyone in her son's platoon in Company C, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y.

"I joined the Adopt-a-Unit program, now the Adopt-a-Platoon program, after reading an article in the Fort Drum Blizzard," said Sarah Dutton, mother of Sgt. Thomas Dutton, a rifleman and a native of Wadsworth, Ill., who is serving his second tour in Iraq. "We were visiting my son at Fort Drum during Memorial Day weekend of 2006 when I read about it. I e-mailed (former 2nd BCT commander) Mike Plummer and asked if I could adopt my son's platoon. I think he thought it was a little daunting for an individual, but I convinced him I could do it."

The Adopt-a-Platoon program is usually joined by large organizations such as churches, businesses, and



Courtesy photo

Members of the "Bear Hugs from Mom" group headed by Sarah Dutton, mother of Sgt. Thomas Dutton, a rifleman and a native of Wadsworth, Ill., who is serving his second tour in Iraq, with the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y. Sarah Dutton and other families of the 4-31 "Polar Bears" send care packages to Company C.

scouting groups, but Dutton took the bull by the horns and began contacting large corporations for donations.

A friend of the Dutton family began passing a bucket at the bar he owns, she said, and she's even gotten friends and neighbors involved.

For Christmas, stockings were stuffed for the Co. C "Marauders" — and the donations filled 47 stockings, enough to give some extras to deserving Soldiers in other platoons, Dutton said. Valentine's Day saw 41 goody bags filled with homemade

cookies and other treats shipped out.

Supporting her son is nothing new, said Dutton.

"I have five children and have been team mom for all of them. I've carted the girls and their friends to softball games or pompom meets. My husband has coached the boys in everything. We've driven far and wide to attend games and competitions throughout the U.S. Sometimes we ask ourselves, "Can we fly to Iraq and help somehow?" We're so consumed

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THE Dog Face Daily

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BEARS ————— From Page 2

by our children; we'll do anything for them. That's what drove me to establish Bear Hugs From Mom."

"I discovered, from my son, that not all of the soldiers had the same support. There are many reasons, I'm sure - lack of money, lack of ability, lack of knowledge ... It is not for me to judge, just to help. I would like to be the parent of each and every soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan, but I can't do that - so I'll just help one platoon."

Because the Adopt-A-Platoon organization has so many units still not adopted, Dutton said, she also took on another small platoon of 10 Soldiers.

She runs a small Web site - www.bearhugsfrommom.com - that members can log on to if they want to share letters, photos, and ideas. Soldiers post photos there as well and communicate with those that support them.

"Thanks for the package, it was great," wrote Cpl. Begin Menahem, a rifleman with Co. C. "I loved the mask. ... Thanks again for what you're doing and helping us out. I mean, any kind of mail is a good

thing, it keeps our spirits alive."

Pfc. Logan Hayes, a signal systems specialist in Co. C. and native of Groves, Texas, also responded to the outpouring of support.

"Thank you so much for the Easter basket care package," Hayes wrote in a letter. "It really brightened my day; especially the hacky sack and candy. I'll get good use of all of the contents. It'll probably be gone within a week. I appreciate you taking the time to send us care packages out here. It's good to get mail every once in a while. Seeing as it takes two to three weeks to get packages you are expecting, getting packages that you aren't expecting really brightens your day. I want to thank you again for your care and compassion."

While Dutton continues to support Co. C through their deployment - tentatively scheduled to end in November 2007 - she also wants to get other people and groups involved with platoons of their own.

"I would love to get the word out to others about the necessity of adopting a platoon and the relative ease of it," she said.

EOD ————— From Page 1

"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," he added.

Out of 375 missions completed for the team, the purpose never changes.

No matter the time or situation, the tactical escort team is always ready.

Whether the mission is as a quick reaction force to enemy contact or hearing the call for EOD, they are ready to take the fight to the enemy and help make Iraq a safer place to live.

Safety Thought of the Day

HMMWV Towing Safety

- During recovery operations for disabled equipment, ensure precombat checks includes checking for tow bars or cables for each vehicle.
- Do not exceed a towing speed of 30 mph (48 kph) or a towing distance of 30 mi (48 km) without first removing the front propeller shaft and/or rear propeller shaft with the parking brake rotor.
- Tow bars are the preferred method for towing vehicles. In emergency situations, tow straps or cables may be used.
- At no time should personnel stand between the two vehicles unless it is absolutely necessary.

HEADLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Woman has 64 year old bullet taken from head

REUTERS

BEIJING - A Chinese woman's 64-year-old headache has ended after doctors removed a bullet that relatives said lodged in her skull when Japanese soldiers shot her during World War Two, state media reported on Monday.

Jin Guangying, now 77, lost consciousness after a Japanese patrol in Jiangsu province fired on her in 1943 as she went to meet her grandfather, a guerrilla fighter, the Beijing News said.

"When she came to, her head was wrapped in a bandage and she never realized there was a bullet lodged deep in her head," the paper said.

Later, she would regularly have headaches, foam at the mouth and "talk nonsense... like she had gone mad", the paper said.

Jin's family had thought her symptoms were due to a tumor, the paper said, quoting Wang Zhengping, the woman's daughter.

"Because our family was poor, we

were never able to have her taken for a thorough check-up," Wang said.

A military expert in Nanjing, the Jiangsu capital, had identified the bullet as one used by Japanese soldiers at that time, the newspaper said.

Jin's relatives planned to seek redress for her more than 60 years of suffering.

Cinemas use night goggles to nab pirates

REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysian cinemas have found a powerful new weapon in their fight against movie pirates -- military-style night-vision goggles.

After showing people to their seats, trained ushers are strapping on the goggles and scanning darkened cinemas around the country to spot anyone trying to make illegal copies of movies with hand-held video recorders or mobile phones.

Cinemas have caught 17 people in the past two months during the release of studio released blockbusters.

Man wrestles wild cat in his bedroom

REUTERS

JERUSALEM - An Israeli man wrestled a leopard to the ground after it entered his bedroom in a desert college and tried to make a meal of his pet cat.

"He jumped on the leopard and pinned him to the floor, then his wife called us so we could take it away," Amram Zabari, a local park ranger who rushed to the scene, said on Tuesday.

Arthur De Mosh, a 45-year-old tour guide at the college near Kibbutz Sde Boker in southern Israel, was awakened in the middle of the night by the sound of the leopard trying to eat his cat.

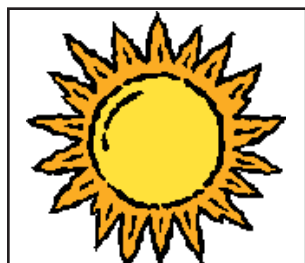
He freed the pet, which survived the ordeal, from the leopard's clutches.

A local veterinarian, Ronnie King, told Israel's Channel 10 television the leopard was suffering from malnutrition and probably entered the home looking for easy prey.

Experts said only 10 leopards live in the wild in Israel. The animal captured at the college was transferred to a veterinary hospital for treatment and then taken to a nature reserve.

Marne Weather Watch

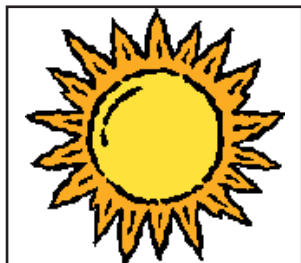
Thursday, May 31



Mostly Sunny

Low: 82F/High: 108F

Friday, June 1



Mostly Sunny

Low: 83F/High: 110F

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Where is the Bathroom?

wayn al hamam ... ?

Sudoku

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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