

Serving Task Force Marne



Spc. Chris McCann

Soldiers of 1-23rd Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div., out of Fort Lewis, Wash., question a female local national southwest of Baghdad, Iraq, while patrolling several small clusters of homes with the 2-14th Inf. Regt., 2/10th Mtn. Div. (LI), out of Fort Drum, N.Y

Golden Dragons, Strykers clear Radwaniyah area

Spc. Chris McCann 2/10th Mtn. Div. (LI) PAO

RADWANIYAH, Iraq — The area just west of Baghdad and the Coalition Forces' Victory Base Complex is quiet – so quiet that the tiny villages south of Az-Zaidon get very little attention.

But there are fears that this area, just southeast of Fallujah, is a bit too quiet.

"It's an intelligence gap," said Capt. Josh Betty, a native of College Station, Texas, and the assistant plans officer for the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y.

The battalion has made several incursions into the area, but hasn't established a permanent foothold there. The intelligence gap — as well as some tips that two Soldiers captured in a May 12 attack had been taken to the Radwaniyah area — meant another mission in the area was due.

Troops from Companies B and D of the 2-14 were dispatched June 3 to clear several houses in what was dubbed Operation Hermes. But with such a large area, the "Golden Dragons," as 2-14 is called, needed assistance.

They called on Co. C of the 1st Battalion (Stryker), 23rd

3rd HBCT Soldiers awarded Bronze Stars

Spc. Ben Hutto 3/3rd Inf. Div. PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq — Two Soldiers from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, were awarded the Bronze Star medal in a ceremony June 1 at Forward Operating Base Hammer.

Staff Sgt. Michael Henderson, a section sergeant, Headquarters Troop, 3rd HBCT, of Vidor, Texas, and Pfc. Stephanie McCulley, a combat medic with Headquarters Troop, 3rd HBCT, of Uniontown, Penn., were presented their awards by Col. Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr., commander of 3rd HBCT.

Both Soldiers were recognized for their actions on May 8, when a humvee in their convoy was struck by an improvised explosive device, killing two Soldiers and severely injuring one.

The pair left the safety of their vehicle and rushed to the damaged vehicle to treat the injured Soldier.

"What amazed me was how quickly Henderson and McCulley got to the disabled vehicle," said Capt. Stephen Hemmann, a platoon leader from St. Louis, Mo. "The smoke hadn't cleared yet and they were running through the danger area to get to the injured. They had no thought for their own safety and made up their mind to get to that vehicle without worrying about the threat. Their only concern was their fellow Soldiers. I have no doubt that if they had not done what they did, we would have lost three Soldiers that day. Their actions saved a life."

Sgt. 1st Class James Mahurin, the platoon sergeant for the awardees, of Modesto, Calif., had high praise for both of his Soldiers.

"There is no one else I can imagine doing Sergeant Henderson's job," Mahurin explained. "When he's out on patrol, he's "switched on" and definitely knows what he's doing. He is a well-liked leader among his Soldiers. They follow his orders immediately. I can always count on him."

Mahurin was as complimentary of McCulley.

"She is a great asset to our team," he said. "She operates at a level much higher than her rank would indicate. When things need to get done, she always finds a way. She provides an excellent example for everyone around her."





Photos by Spc. Ben Hutto

Col. Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr., commander of 3/3rd Inf. Div., pins the Bronze Star medal to Staff Sgt. Michael Henderson (top) and Pfc. Stephanie McCulley (above) during a ceremony June 1 at FOB Hammer.

THE **Dog Face Daily**

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Spc. Chris McCann

Soldiers of 1-23rd Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div., out of Fort Lewis, Wash., climb a steep dike along a canal southwest of Baghdad while patrolling several small clusters of homes with 2-14th Inf. Regt., 2/10th Mtn. Div. (LI), out of Fort Drum, N.Y.

STRYKERS -

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Infantry Regiment, which had been aiding in the search for the missing Soldiers, to lend a hand.

The 2-14 Soldiers air-assaulted into the area while the Stryker vehicles moved in under cover of darkness.

"It's an isolated objective area southwest of Baghdad," said Betty. "Right now, we don't have a lot of intelligence on the area, so we were gathering intelligence for conducting future operations."

The area, like most of the 2nd BCT's area of operations, is pastoral. Children herd sheep and goats while adults work fields of wheat, alfalfa, and vegetables.

The troops of the Stryker battalion cleared many houses as the 2-14 Soldiers provided the security cordon around the area, moving through the scattered groups of homes with Iraqi army troops. One of the homes had an SA-7 – a shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile system — and two men were detained

and taken to Camp Striker for questioning about the weapon.

Having the extra Soldiers was critical, Betty said.

"Due to our current situation, our organic elements are tied up with their own patrols and patrol bases – they don't have a lot of people to flex one way or another. This gave us the ability to use our own small organic units and a whole company of personnel to actually go in and secure the objective – it let us put a lot more people on the ground."

The fields and farmlands of the Radwaniyah and Zaidon areas will continue to be patrolled by the 2-14th, Betty said, in an effort to keep terror at bay and the population there safe.

"We've been up there a number of times," said Betty, "and we're continuing to operate in the area to make it safer for Iraq and get a better picture of what's going on there."

ATTENTION, 3RD INF. DIV. PARENTS!

A DVD copy of the graduation ceremonies from the following Fort Stewart, Ga., area schools is now available:

- Bradwell Institute
- Liberty High School
 - Windsor Forest
 High School
 - Richmond Hill
 High School
- Jenkins High School

Soldiers or contractors desiring a DVD should send all requests to the Division Rear G6 POC by June 20.

Safety Thought of the Day Rules For Tent-Living

Hot plates and microwaves pose a fire hazard and are not to be used.
Make sure all lights and electrical

devices are turned off when you leave.

- Don't use frayed, spliced or damaged extension cords.
- Don't hang wet cloths or put other objects on top of interior wiring.
- Be sure of the voltage entering

your tent - use a transformer if necessary.

- Use of candles, or any other devices that burn with an open flame, or smolder, is not authorized.
- No smoking within 50 feet of tents.
- Station a fire extinguisher by each door and do not block doors or aisles.
- Inspect tents monthly to ensure compliance.



HEADLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Israeli diplomats denied non-kosher dining on duty

REUTERS

JERUSALEM — Israeli diplomats fed up with a protocol requiring they entertain guests at less-than-fancy kosher eateries abroad have asked for the rules to be relaxed, only to be overruled by a religious Jewish cabinet minister.

Trade Minister Eli Yishai, a member of the Orthodox Shas party, persuaded the Foreign Ministry not to accept the appeal by dozens of Israeli envoys to be allowed to hold official functions in non-kosher restaurants, Maariv newspaper said.

"Keeping kosher preserved the people of Israel," the daily quoted Yishai as saying.

According to Maariv, the ambassadors had complained that in many foreign postings, most kosher restaurants are fast-food establishments far below the standards of diplomatic dining. Jewish dietary rules ban pork and some other meat, shellfish and the mixing of dairy products and meat at meals. Orthodox tradition bars Jews from even entering non-kosher restaurant, but most Israelis are secular and many of them ignore kosher rules.

Eating live frogs, rats 'cures tummy upsets'

Reuters

BEIJING — A man in southeast China says 40 years of swallowing tree frogs and rats live has helped him avoid intestinal complaints and made him strong. Jiang Musheng, a 66-year-old resident of Jiangxi province, suffered from frequent abdominal pains and coughing from the age of 26, until an old man called Yang Dingcai suggested tree frogs as a remedy, the Beijing News said on Tuesday.

"At first, Jiang Musheng did not dare to eat a live, wriggling frog, but after seeing Yang Dingcai swallow one, he ate ... two without a thought," the paper said. "After a month of eating live frogs, his stomach pains and coughing were completely gone."

Over the years Jiang had added live mice, baby rats and green frogs to his diet, and had once eaten 20 mice in a single day, the paper said.

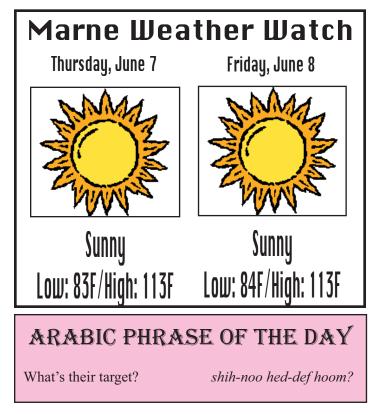
Lion, tiger kill man at meat plant

REUTERS

MEXICO CITY — A lion and a tiger kept as exotic pets on the roof of a Mexican meat processing plant killed a man feeding them Monday, Mexican media said.

Caretaker Angel Aguilar, 56, was taking pieces of chicken to feed the two big cats when the lion swiped at him through the bars of its cage and pulled him inside, Reforma daily said. The tiger then joined in the attack.

Paramedics arrived at the plant in the rough Mexico City neighborhood of Iztapalapa while the man was still alive but they could not get past the animals to treat him. The two big cats, which had separate quarters of a big cage but came together to eat, were according to reports kept by the plant's owner as pets and in good condition. After the attack, the animals were sedated and the tiger's jaws tied around a chunk of wood.



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