

# THE Dog Face Daily

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*Serving Task Force Marne*

## Brothers carry on family tradition of military service

SPC. EMILY J. WILSONCROFT  
EDITOR

The Flinner name has been in the U.S. military since the Army's conception. Staff Sgt. Aaron Flinner, Spc. Joshua Flinner and Pfc. Matthew Flinner are carrying on that tradition proudly.

"Our family members have been serving in the Army since the Revolutionary War," said Aaron, from Company C, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

Joshua is assigned to Troop A, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, and Matthew to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, both from 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, out of Fort Richardson, Alaska. All three, natives of Prospect, Pa., are airborne infantrymen.

Aaron has been in the Army for close to 11 years, Matthew and Joshua for nearly two and a half.

"We weren't pushed to join the Army, but it's what we all wanted to do," Joshua said. "We have cousins in the Army, too. It's just something our family has always



Photos by Staff Sgt. Lorie Jewell

**Three brothers serving as infantrymen in different parts of Iraq were brought together June 9 to meet with Gen. David Petraeus, MNF-I commander. Matthew, Joshua and Aaron Flinner (left to right) are from Prospect, Pa.**

done."

The three brothers, whose father Larry served in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division, are now simultaneously in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

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**Matthew, Joshua and Aaron Flinner (left to right) chat with Gen. David H. Petraeus, MNF-I commander, June 9.**

# Eye docs bring things into focus in Kalsu

**MAJ. ERIC VERZOLA**  
4/25TH INF. DIV. (ABN.) PAO

KALSU, Iraq — The U.S. Army is the only service in Iraq that deploys medical eye specialists, and a team of two treated 105 Coalition Forces during a recent trip to Kalsu.

There are 10 optometrists and two eye surgeons in Iraq who travel from Camp Adder, Talil, Iraq, throughout theater to help Soldiers maintain or improve their sight.

The two-man team from the 82nd Airborne Division's Sustainment Brigade visited Forward Operating Base Kalsu for three and a half days last week to provide services for Coalitions Forces from Baghdad to north of Kuwait.

Maj. James Truong, the chief optometrist in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Sust. Bde., and Staff Sgt. Mark Maczuga, originally from Chicago, Ill., examined patients who needed glasses or had problems with their eyes.

Truong received his medical degree from the Southern California College of Optometry and his Bachelor of Science degree in neuro-psychology from University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

"We go out about every three weeks to surrounding camps and FOBs to help people see better," said Truong, a Boston, Mass., native. "This (tour in Iraq) has been an excellent experience; we have been able to help not only American Soldiers, but many of

the coalition troops from Poland, El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Britain, and Australia."

Truong knows that examining the eyes is important because it can signal problems in other parts of the body.

"We have been able to catch tumors, multiple sclerosis, eye diseases, diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. You can literally 'see' in a patient's eyes when he or she has had one too many cheeseburgers and fries," he said.

The examination was a first for many of the troops the team saw.

"For many of the coalition troops

not from the United States, the eye examination we administer was the first time in their lives that their eyes had been looked at, and when they put on glasses for the first time it is almost a miraculous event. They can't believe they can see so much more clearly with the aid of glasses," said Truong.

Truong and Maczuga are both bilingual, which aided in their ability to help the Polish and El Salvadoran soldiers see more quickly. Truong speaks some Spanish, while Maczuga speaks Polish.

"I have really enjoyed helping soldiers to see better," Maczuga said.



Courtesy photo

**Staff Sgt. Mark Maczuga, a Chicago, Ill., native and optometry NCO from 82nd Abn. Div., examines the eyes of Spc. Richard "Dick" Herold, a Paratrooper from Butler, Pa., and a member of 725th BSB, 4/25th Inf. Div. (Abn.), at FOB Kalsu, Iraq, June 7.**

## THE Dog Face Daily

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**BROTHERS** ————— **From Page 1**

— an uncommon occurrence.

That uniqueness was the reason that, although assigned to different units, they were reunited June 9 for a special meeting with Gen. David Petraeus, commander of Multinational Forces – Iraq.

The opportunity to meet Petraeus was an honor, the Flinners said.

“It was pretty cool,” Matthew said. “We talked about the 101st, because he just came from there and that was our dad’s unit.”

The meeting marked the first time the three had seen each other since Aaron deployed to theater in August of 2006. Matthew and Joshua followed a few weeks later.

The brothers said they don’t regularly communicate with each other, partially because each knows more or less what the others are up to.

“What am I going to do, e-mail them about my day?” Matthew laughed. “Theirs was the same as mine. We’re no different than anyone else.”

“The old man is the mediator,” Joshua said about his father. “He talks to all of us, and tells us what’s going on with the others.”

In spite of their rare situation, the Flinners don’t feel set apart from their fellow Soldiers.

“I don’t think it’s a big deal that we’re all (in theater) together,” Matthew said. “It’s nice to see them here, though.”

Aaron echoed his brothers’ sentiments.

“It’s really good to see these guys,” he said. “Now I’m ready to get back to work.”

# Four detained on joint raid

**Spc. BEN HUTTO**  
3/3RD INF. DIV. PAO

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq** – Soldiers from the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment and the Iraqi National Police detained four men and confiscated bomb-making materials and rifles following a raid in northern Jisr Diyala, Monday.

The 3-1 Cavalry’s Troop A and Time Sensitive Target Platoon Soldiers worked with an Iraqi National Police platoon, called the Lions of Wassit, to search locations insurgent forces were using as meeting sites and cache sites.

The unit conducted several raids to collect information and disrupt enemy activities preventing extremists from engaging Combat Outpost Assassin and FOB Rustamiyah, according to Capt. Troy Thomas, the plans officer for 3-1 Cavalry, from Litchfield, Minn.

“No one shot a rocket or a mortar at either location last night, that was a big thing,” he said.

Thomas was also impressed with the performance of the Lions



Spc. Ben Hutto

**Soldiers from 3-1 Cav. talk with local citizens during an operation with the Iraqi National Police in northern Jisr Diyala June 11.**

of Wassit.

“Every battalion in the Army should be lucky enough to have a platoon like the Lions to work with,” said Thomas. “Those guys were well trained and disciplined. They did a great job.”

The 3-1 Cavalry is assigned to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Benning, Ga.

## Safety Thought of the Day

### Selecting MEDEVAC Landing Zones

- When choosing an LZ, the site should have relatively level ground.
- Try to select a site with a firm surface to prevent brownouts.
- Helicopters will usually try to land into the wind and land with a forward roll. If possible, select an LZ large enough to facilitate this.
- All debris should be cleared from the site to prevent FOD from damaging aircraft.
- All vehicles and personnel must be kept clear of the aircraft and LZ at all times.
- Exercise extreme caution on a sloped LZ. It may be difficult to see blades, and approaching from up slope side could result in decapitation.
- Remain clear of helicopter rotor and tail rotor blades.
- Personnel in the vicinity of the LZ should wear eye protection, hearing protection, and a helmet.

# HEADLINE HIGHLIGHTS

## Randy sniffer dogs get the sack from Chinese airport

REUTERS

BANGKOK — Two Thai street mutts who became ace sniffer dogs at an airport near the notorious “Golden Triangle” opium-producing region have been fired for urinating on luggage and sexually harassing female passengers. The pair, Mok and Lai, had been plucked from obscurity under a program initiated by King Bhumibol Adulyadej to turn strays into police dogs, the Bangkok Post said on Sunday. Although they won plaudits from police for their work in sniffing out drugs at northern Thailand’s Chiang Rai airport, near the border with Laos and Myanmar, so many passengers complained about their behavior they had to be fired.

“He liked to pee on luggage while searching for drugs inside,” Mok’s former handler, Police Lieutenant Colonel Jakapop Kamhon, said. “He also liked to hold on to women’s legs.”

“Both were just as good as foreign dogs trained for use in drug missions,” he added. “But they were stray dogs, so their manners were worse than those of foreign breeds.”

Mok and Lai now work on a farm, herding chickens and pigs, the paper said.

## Two jailed after bridge built by blind man collapses

REUTERS

BEIJING — A Chinese court has jailed two officials after they let a blind contractor build a bridge which collapsed during construction and injured 12 people, the official Xinhua news agency said Monday.

Huang Wenge, township head of Bujia in the south-eastern province of Jiangxi, and colleague Xia Jianzhong were sentenced to 18 months and one year in jail, respectively, for not stopping the project, Xinhua said.

“Huang Wenge and Xia Jianzhong, who were in charge of road management and supervision, did not ask the contractors to provide certificates guaranteeing their proficiency,” it said, citing the court ruling.

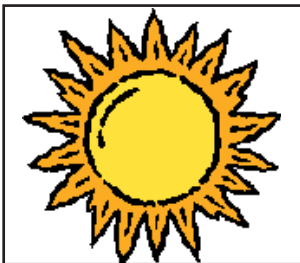
“When they knew the bridge was being built by a blind contractor, they did not stop it,” it said, adding the contractor had changed the blueprint without getting a professional to look at the design.

“After the blind contractor changed the blueprint, he carried out the work only using a roughly drawn draft of the plan, which caused the bridge to collapse,” the report said.

Xinhua did not explain how the contractor was able to run the project considering his inability to see.

## Marne Weather Watch

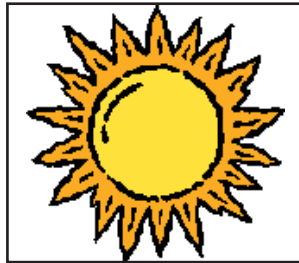
Wednesday, June 13



Sunny

Low: 82F/High: 108F

Thursday, June 14



Sunny

Low: 83F/High: 112F

## ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Is the place guarded? *il-mah-kan ma-hah-roos?*

## Trivia



Who said: “I’m the president of the United States and I’m not going to eat any more broccoli”?

George Bush



## Today in History ...

1970

The Beatles’ “Let It Be,” album goes #1 and stays #1 for 4 weeks