

Serving Task Force Marne



Sgt. J.H. French

Master Sgt. Mark Powell, a military policeman with 4th BCT (Abn.), 25th Inf. Div., provides security while other paratroopers search inside the house for insurgents and weapons during Operation Peregrine II.

IED emplacers detained during Operation Peregrine II

Sgt. J.H. French 4th BCT (Abn.), 25th Inf. Div.

KALSU, Iraq – As the Paratroopers packed inside the helicopter, engines roared to life and lifted them into the black of night, June 23.

The destination of the Paratroopers was Hawaii, but it was no island paradise, it was the target name for an insurgent stronghold in a village just outside Mahmudiyah.

The Paratroopers from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division conducted Operation Peregrine II and captured five members of an insurgent cell in north Babil.

"The operation was a night time air assault to capture several (individuals) that we believe are directly responsible for attacks in our area, including the bombing of a bridge that took the lives of three of our fellow Soldiers," said 1st Sgt. Karl Zaglauer, first sergeant for Company C. "This was actually the third raid we have conducted in response to the bridge attack."

The Paratroopers trained and re-

'Saintsations' sizzle things up at Kalsu

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq — The New Orleans Saintsations were able to spread some cheer during their visit to Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq, June 23.

The Saintsations partook in a meet-n-greet as well as performed a variety of dance routines and audience participation skits.

Arriving that morning, the Saintsations began their visit by walking around FOB Kalsu talking and joking with the servicemembers before show began.

"We are so honored to be here today to perform for you," said Dianne, one of the Saintsations. "We came here to support you, our troops, to show you that we love and appreciate everything that you do for us."

"This event was a great morale booster for everyone," said Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Cortes, 725th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division and San Juan, Puerto Rico, native. "From start to finish the show was awesome, especially when the Saintsations called up people to dance."

After the show, the Saintsations posed for photos and all sat down and signed pictures, calendars and even t-shirts to show the Soldiers how much they care.

"All of the Saintsations that visited FOB Kalsu came on their own accord. There was no one forcing them to come here, they all volunteered," said Capt. Michael Schulte, 725th BSB, 4th BCT (Abn.), 25th Inf. Div.

To thunderous applause, the Saintsations exited stage left, leaving behind wonderful memories and smiles on the crowd's faces.



Sgt. Marcus Butler

Two of the New Orleans Saintsations sign the shirt of San Juan, Puerto Rico, native Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Cortes, Co. A, 725th BSB, 4th BCT, (Abn.), 25th Inf. Div., during their visit to FOB Kalsu, Iraq, June 23.



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PEREGRINE — From Page 1

hearsed for three days in preparation for the mission but at the last minute plans changed.

"Prior to take off we learned that the main target had moved locations," Zaglauer said. "So, we came up with a hasty plan and our guys executed it flawlessly."

Even though the Paratroopers made the raid look easy, it did have its problems.

"It was difficult. This was our first air assault, and at the last minute there was a change, but we were flexible and stuck to the basics," said 1st Lt. Nathaniel Bretz, a platoon leader with Company C.

According to Bretz, several factors added to the difficulty of the operation including the sheer number of houses located within the vicinity of the target.

"Everything was a little more built up than we expected," he continued. "But, we were able to clear the objective and take five insurgents off of the street."

More missions of this type are being planned by Company C.

"We like conducting these types of operations because it gives you the element of surprise," said Capt. Stew



1st Lt. Tyler Mitchell

June 25, 2007 • Page 3

Sgt. Matthew Ashmead, a medic with Co. C, 3-509th PIR, 4th BCT, (Abn.), 25th Inf. Div., searches a stack of mattresses during Operation Peregrine II.

Lindsay, commander of Company C.

In all, 19 suspected members of the IED cell have been detained. Company A, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment, attached to 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th BCT, (Abn.), 25th Inf. Div., detained 14 insurgents June 24 while conducting a raid south of Baghdad alongside the Iraqi army.

Safety Thought of the Day Large Generator Maintenance Safety

• Large generators may produce more than 50 times the power of a typical Army generator. In a shut-down generator, the residual voltage in the generator leads may be up to several hundred volts—enough to kill you.

• Disconnect all power and remove outgoing power cables before inspecting.

• De-energize DC control and circuit breakers and set any maintenance lockout switches to appropriate setting before starting any procedure. Do not touch exposed electrical connections or work on components that are energized.

• Use proper test equipment to check for voltage before proceeding with work, and ensure they are insulated and isolated.

• Do not use multi-meters designed for smaller generators on larger generators.

• Obtain literature and information on a generator model before working on it.



HEADLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Fluffy and Fido grounded as airline bans pets

REUTERS

OTTAWA — Sorry Fluffy. Tough luck, Fido. Air Canada will be banning all pets from its passenger planes from July 15 this year.

The airline decided to stop carrying cats and dogs in the cargo hold because of increasing load factors as well as tighter security measures that are leading people to check more bags, said airline spokesman Peter Fitzpatrick.

"Animals in the hold actually reduce the amount of space we have for luggage because you've got to leave an area for ventilation or oxygen and as well they require extra handling," he said.

The airline stopped carrying pets in the cabin last September because of concerns over passengers with allergies. People who want to transport their pets after July 15 can use planes operated by Air Canada's cargo operation.

Fitzpatrick said the decision was not directly linked to the case of a Canadian doctor whose dog died of carbon monoxide poisoning while in the hold of a flight in early 2004.

The Canadian Transport Agency ruled in 2006 that the airline was not liable for the death of animals in its care.

Police fight new menace: cuddling couples

Sheikh Mushtaq Reuters

SRINAGAR, India — Police in Indian Kashmir usually accustomed to fighting separatist militants have a new target in their sights -- teenagers canoodling in parks, restaurants and at Internet cafes.

The crackdown aims to curb "immoral activities," a senior police officer said on Friday, adding that dozens of places had been raided across Srinagar, the main city of the region, and at least 10 couples detained over the last three days.

Restaurant and Internet cafe owners had also been asked to get rid of cabins and cubicles as they were being "misused" by teenagers in the Muslim-majority region, he said.

"We received a number of complaints

from parents that their children, mostly teenagers, would stray into cyber cafes and restaurants instead of schools and colleges," Parvez Ahmad told Reuters.

"Many boys and girls were seen in objectionable postures ... we informed their parents to take them home," he said.

Srinagar, the centre of a 17-year revolt against Indian rule, has seen women separatists raid restaurants, Internet cafes, liquor shops and suspected brothels in the past to stop what they say are immoral and un-Islamic activities.

But it was the first such drive by police since the insurgency erupted in the Himalayan region in 1989.

More than 42,000 people have since been killed in separatist violence, officials say. Human rights activists put the toll at 60,000 dead or missing. However, overall violence levels have fallen since India and Pakistan -- both of whom claim Kashmir in full but rule it in parts -- launched a peace process in 2004, officials say. This has also allowed a marginal easing of security restrictions and freer movement of people in Srinagar, leading to youngsters getting bolder in what is a traditional Islamic society, they say.

A police statement said the department would "continue its drive against immoral activities."



