

# THE Dog Face Daily

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*Serving Task Force Marne*



Spc. William Hatton

**Soldiers from TF Marne participated in a theatre-wide reenlistment ceremony in honor of the nation's independence. TF Marne made up 184 of the 600 Soldiers who reenlisted.**

## Marne Soldiers celebrate Independence Day by reenlisting

**SPC. WILLIAM HATTON**  
TF MARNE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — When thinking of the 4th of July, many things might come to mind. Whether fireworks or cookouts, there are often happy memories surrounded with the holiday.

This year, Soldiers throughout Iraq got to be a part of a massive reenlistment ceremony in honor of the nation's independence.

Among the approximately 600 Soldiers who reenlisted during the ceremony, 184 of them represented Task Force Marne in the ceremony conducted by Gen. David H. Petraeus, commanding general of Multi-National Force-Iraq at the Al Faw palace on Camp Victory, Iraq.

Soldiers have different reasons for reenlisting, but the decision wasn't difficult for a few Marne Soldiers in particular on this occasion.

"Doing this just seemed like the right thing to do," said Spc. Richard Cheeseman, a cavalry scout with the 5th Squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. "What can I say, I love my job. Choosing to reenlist was just too easy."

"It really just comes down to a feeling," said Sgt. Zettion Branchon, a human resource specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Inf. Div.

Collectively among all the Soldiers who reenlisted, the total for bonuses was over \$5 million, but for Branchon, reen-

listing was more than just for the money.

"Deep down inside, reenlisting was what I felt I was supposed to do," said Branchon, a native of Rocky Mount, N.C.

On such a historical day, Soldiers are being given the opportunity to make history by reenlisting during such a large and memorable ceremony, Branchon said.

"The 4th of July really is a special time," she added.

Although the holiday wasn't the reason for reenlisting, having the reenlistment on the holiday was nice, Branchon said.

All the Soldiers who reenlisted were given a flag that was flown over the MNF-I headquarters, and given a coin from the MNF-I leadership.

# 1-15 Inf. uses soccer to befriend villagers

**SPC. BEN HUTTO**  
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV. PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq — Soldiers from Company E, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment were prepared for the worst when they rolled outside the gates of Forward Operating Base Hammer June 23.

The engineering company had been clearing the roads in the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division's area of operation since the day they had arrived. As part of Operation Marne Torch, a Multi-National Division — Center operation, they would provide security near an Iraqi police checkpoint outside the town of Al Durai'ya.

"We were supposed to take over that route for the MPs (military police), during Bull Run," explained Pfc. James Jones, from Killeen, Texas, Company E, 1-15 Inf. "We cleared up until the check point. We held that spot all night. At about eight in the morning, we went out into a smaller village, and set up a tempo-

rary checkpoint."

As the Soldiers manned their post, the children of the village began to come out and look at the visitors in their neighborhood.

"It was tough to get them to come out at first," said Jones. "They weren't used to seeing us out there and really didn't know what to make of us. When we broke out three soccer balls it helped, but they really just wanted to take them and run. We really just tried to let them know through our interpreter that we were just there to help."

The number of children swelled as the news of free soccer balls spread through the village. Soon after, the Soldiers used 20 children and three soccer balls to bring a village to them.

The Soldiers were able to give something to the girls and smaller boys thanks to the parents of Pfc. Brian Jolley, from Champaign, Ill., Co. E, 1-15 Infantry.

"My parents ... really got the community back in Champaign to donate toys and things like that," Jolley explained.

Armed with a bag of Beanie Babies, Jolley made sure the girls and small children had a stuffed animal as their mothers started coming out to check on them.

"I think it's great that a mother in the United States can help bring a smile to another mother's face," Jolley said. "It's always good when something like a small stuffed animal can help build relationship with a local mother. Once they saw what we were all out there doing they warmed up to us and started talking to our interpreters."

While the mothers talked with the interpreters, some of the Company E Soldiers got involved in a soccer game that the boys had started. Jones, who played midfielder at Killeen High School, enjoyed playing his old position, but decided that playing goalie would be better for that game.

"I was running around for a little while, but the gear started getting heavy," laughed Jones. "I decided I'd stay still and let them kick it to me."

Jones believes the game helped break down much of the misinformation that, he believed, insurgents may be giving them.

"When things like that happen you are showing them that you are not there to hurt them," Jones said. "You show people we are there to help. It shows them that we are normal people like them."



Courtesy photo

**Pfc. James Jones, Co. E, 1-15th Inf. Regt., plays soccer with a child in a village outside Al Durai'ya June 23.**

## THE Dog Face Daily

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# Soldiers gain citizenship for Independence Day

STAFF SGT. SAMANTHA M. STRYKER  
TF MARNE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – Thirty-one Soldiers from Task Force Marne officially became U.S. citizens Wednesday in a ceremony held at the Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory, Iraq.

These men and women joined the Army either a few months ago or have served for several years. For all of them, today on Independence Day begins a new chapter in their lives.

"It is an honor to serve this country that has given me so much," said Sgt. Luis Pena, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

The Columbian-born Soldier said that serving in the Army has always been his dream.

Pena moved to the Englewood, N.J., in September 2000. Less than a year later, in Aug. 2001, he joined the Army and became an airborne infantryman serving with the 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, N.C. A month after he enlisted the worst terrorist attack on American soil took place, solidifying his resolve to protect his family and a country he would one day call his home, alongside his fellow Soldiers no matter where the fight took him.

After achieving his dream of becoming a Soldier, Pena knew he wanted more; more for himself his family of four. He wanted to become a U.S. citizen. So Wednesday, along with fellow brothers

and sisters in arms, Pena pledged his allegiance to America.

"I have always been proud of having fought and served in Iraq and of helping the citizens of Iraq," Pena said. "But today, I am just as proud of being a part of a great country as I am of defending the U.S.," Pena added.

Soldiers chose naturalization for different personal reasons.

For Egyptian-born Spc. Allen Joseph, an interpreter with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, who for nine years has called Bakersfield, Calif., home, wanted to prove something by joining the military and eventually becoming a citizen.

"I wanted to prove to those people who look at those of us who are different, being middle-eastern," Joseph said. "Now I feel I deserve to be (in America) and live the way of life as any U.S. citizen."

After the ceremony Joseph shared his thoughts about his commitment.

"It feels different, but I have always had the same rights and have always been aware of the responsibilities of those rights," he said. "Ethnically I am still Egyptian, but now I am an American."

Each Soldier took an oath renouncing all allegiances with their country of origin. Though they pledged their allegiance to the United States, each one has already demonstrated fidelity to the 'land of the free' by enlisting in the United States Army and serving Iraq.



Staff Sgt. Samantha M. Stryker

**Hundreds of servicemembers gather in the MNF-I headquarters at Al Faw Palace for a joint naturalization and reenlistment ceremony July 4.**

During the ceremony leaders and guest speakers expressed their admiration for the Soldiers choosing U.S. citizenship. Petraeus mentioned of two Soldiers who could not attend the ceremony. In June the Soldiers were killed by insurgent activity while serving in Iraq.

Another guest at the ceremony was Republican Senator of Arizona, John McCain, who personally thanked all the service members for their commitment to the country with a handshake.

The ceremony was a combination of a citizenship and reenlistment ceremony. In total, 168 Soldiers became citizens, 31 Soldiers are assigned to TF Marne.

## Safety Thought of the Day Wire Hazards

- Wires are present everywhere throughout the country.
- Flying at lower altitudes subjects aircraft to an increased risk of hitting wires, especially at unimproved landing areas.
- If possible, fly at higher altitudes and land only at surveyed HLZs.
- If mission dictates flying at lower altitudes or landing at unimproved / surveyed areas, conduct a

thorough map recon prior to mission execution.

- If mission allows, perform a high and low recon of the intended landing area prior to making an approach.
- When conducting AWT or SWT operations, do not become fixated on a target, especially when at lower altitudes.
- Always keep an active scan of the area, watching for wires and obstacles



## HEADLINE HIGHLIGHTS

### Woman returns to husband who took her hostage

REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO — A Brazilian woman whose estranged husband held her hostage at gunpoint on a bus for 10 hours along with dozens of passengers last year has decided to reunite with him.

"I forgave him out of love ... I believe it was an irrational act and that we can resume our life in peace," Brazil's Globo news agency quoted Cristina Ribeiro, 35, as saying on Monday, eight months after the nationally televised hostage drama.

The couple, who have three children, have decided to live together again, Globo reported.

The husband, Andre Ribeiro da Silva, 36, was paroled from prison in late April and is awaiting trial.

"I hear people warning me that he will do it again, but we've talked and

grown into the idea of getting back together," the woman said.

Armed with a pistol, Ribeiro da Silva took Cristina hostage on November 10 on a suburban bus on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. He released dozens of hostages during negotiations with police and then surrendered without a shot being fired.

During the incident, he accused her of having cheated on him and threatened to kill her and then commit suicide. The two had been married for 10 years and separated four months earlier.

### Afghanistan begins campaign to cut smoking

REUTERS

KABUL — Afghanistan may be the world's largest producer of heroin, but the government has taken the first step towards a ban on smoking in public places.

Local media said on Tuesday that the council of ministers had ordered a campaign through the media and mosques to inform the public that smoking in educational institutions, hospitals and government offices has been outlawed.

The ban will be widened later to cover hotels and restaurants.

The reports did not say how the government would monitor the ban or what penalties there might be for violators.

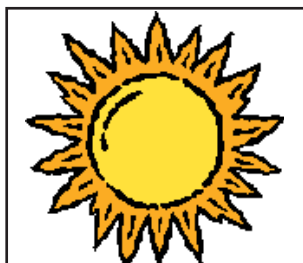
There are no official figures on the number of smokers among Afghanistan's 25 million people, but unscientific observation and questioning by Reuters correspondents suggest around half the men have smoked at some point or another.

Afghans say there are very few women smokers.

War-torn Afghanistan produces over 90 percent of the world's heroin and despite the government's repeated efforts, backed by force and tens of millions of dollars from donor countries, drugs cultivation and consumption is rising each year.

### Marne Weather Watch

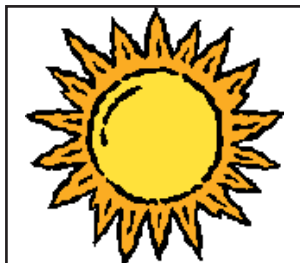
Thursday, July 5



Sunny

Low: 87F/High: 113F

Friday, July 6



Sunny

Low: 88F/High: 114F

### ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Help me

sah-ed-nee

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to  
yesterday's  
puzzle:

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