

– Serving Task Force Marne —

Tip leads troops to top terrorist

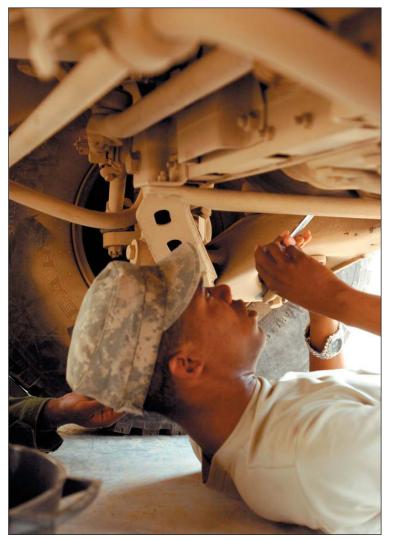
2ND BCT, 10TH MTN. DIV. PAO

AL-DHOUR — With two well-timed phone calls, Iraqi civilians made some Soldiers' day July 9.

The first tipster called Troop C, 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., and alerted them to a cache south of the village of Al-Dhour, Iraq, south of Baghdad.

The troop responded, located the buried weapons, and was only five minutes into the process of digging them up when they got another call.

A man claimed he had the 2nd BCT's top high-value target and would deliver



Spc. William Hatton Pvt. Michael Williams, a mechanic with HHSC, STB, 3rd Inf. Div., tightens a loose bolt as he inspects various mechanisms underneath a military vehicle. Capt. Adam Sawyer, Trp. C commander, agreed on a pickup site. The Soldiers hastily re-buried the cache and moved out, and when the ve-

him to coalition custody. The man and

cache and moved out, and when the vehicle arrived, they stopped it and took the most wanted man and two other

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Marne mechanics keep fight rolling

SPC. WILLIAM HATTON TF MARNE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP VICTORY — As a convoy commander prepares to roll through the dangerous streets of Baghdad, a lot might run through his mind. As the preparations are made, one important question might arise: How capable are my vehicles for the trip there and back?

Task Force Marne mechanics answer the question every day with their diligent work in making sure every vehicle that rolls outside the wire is more than capable for the trip.

"The work is hard, but it leaves a great feeling when we do something right for the guys that go outside the wire every day," said Spc. Tremayne Parker, a mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division.

"We spend hours outside in the 110 degree heat every day working on different kinds of vehicles," said Parker, a native of Newport News, Va.

Although the hot conditions might be hard to work in, it still needs to be done every day, said Pvt. Michael Williams, a mechanic with HHSC, STB, 3rd Inf. Div.

"If we don't do it, who is going to?" asked Williams, a native of Killeen, Texas.

As the mechanics learn to put the heat aside, as difficult as it can be, learning the different parts of vehicles and growing as a mechanic becomes important.

"One of the ways we are able to be successful is by knowing how to take care of our vehicles," Parker said.

When Soldiers come out of advanced individual train-

See MECHANICS, Page 3

Hazing: tradition or travesty?

SPC. EMILY J. WILSONCROFT EDITOR

When does an innocent rite of passage become an illegal act?

That's a question that has been coming up more and more often in today's Army, and it's one that Task Force Marne is currently addressing.

"Hazing is defined as any conduct whereby one military member or employee, regardless of service or rank, unnecessarily causes another ... to suffer or be exposed to an activity that is cruel, abusive, oppressive or harmful," said Sgt. 1st Class Paul Louderback, TF Marne assistant inspector general. "There's no defense for hazing. If even one person complains, it's over the line."

Take, for example, a Soldier just promoted to sergeant.

In the Army, there are plenty of significant milestones like this one that call for some special act of camaraderie.

But then, as each of the Soldier's peers and seniors step forward to congratulate him, they give him a good-natured punch on his new rank.

This is completely natural, according to Louderback and Lt. Col. Wilfred Clayton, TF Marne inspector general.

"We're in a combat environment, so people are going to be getting promoted and earning (Combat Action Badges) and (Combat Infantry Badges)," Clayton said. "There's nothing wrong with having an official ceremony to recognize these Soldiers, but when you begin hitting, that becomes hazing."

Even if the Soldiers involved aren't opposed to the friendly punches, regulation states that once it happens, con"There's nothing wrong with having an official ceremony to recognize these Soldiers, but when you begin hitting, that becomes hazing."

> — Lt. Col. Wilfred Clayton TF Marne inspector general

sent isn't an issue – according to Army Regulation 600-20, 4-20(3)b, "express or implied consent to hazing is not a defense to this violation."

Some Soldiers claim that all is done in the name of tradition, and that the "new Army" is "too soft."

Clayton said this is not the case.

"The policy has never been that the Army accepted hazing, but now they are more focused on stopping it," he said. "It has a lot to do with the command climate. The command should not let it happen."

Some commanders blow off hazing, saying "guys will be guys," Clayton said.

"That's just condoning the behavior," he said. "The best thing is to either have strict guidelines for that sort of thing, or avoid it altogether."

Because of privacy issues, Clayton and Louderback couldn't give any specific examples of hazing, but they said TF Marne and the 3rd Infantry Division haven't had any significant problems in that area.

"We're trying to be preventive," Clayton said. "The bottom line is that we're just trying to help other people, and keep anything serious from happening."

The concern is not only for Soldiers' wellbeing. Anyone guilty of violating the hazing policy is subject to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"Commanders have a range of options available to them to deal with Soldiers who engage in hazing," said Capt. Shawn Pinkston, TF Marne military justice officer-in-charge. "While it would depend on the type of hazing, the most likely charges a Soldier would face under the UCMJ are failure to obey a regulation, assault — if the hazing includes physical abuse — and conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline.

"On the administrative side," he added, "a Soldier may receive an Article 15 and ultimately may be separated from the service."

Clayton emphasized that the standard of appropriate behavior should be clearly set to the point where Soldiers at the most junior level can clearly comprehend it.

"The command group is taking aggressive action on this," he said. "We're going to have dignity and respect in this division."



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TIP: Iraqi civilians aid Soldiers' capture of wanted terrorist

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men into custody.

Some of the Soldiers were still able to see the cache from their vantage point — and were surprised to see a civilian pickup truck stop there and begin hastily loading the weapons into the bed of the truck.

They engaged the vehicle with an M-240 machine gun, and the men tried to flee, but the Trp. C Soldiers detained them all - and called an explosive ordnance disposal team to destroy the weapons.

Sawyer, a native of Reading, Penn., was jubilant about the operation.

"All of this was possible because of sources we've developed, through local-national engagements and working with the residents of the area," he said. "It's our work with the people in these areas, our relations with them, paying off."

The primary target is allegedly responsible for shooting down an AH-64 helicopter in April 2006, the abductions of two Soldiers in June 2006, and complex attacks on patrol bases and terrorist acts against both Coalition Forces and Iraqi civilians.

Additionally, he is believed to be the leader of an al Qaeda network, known to prey on the general public through intimidation and murder against those resisting compliance to the AQI demands and decrees

One of the detainees had been wounded in a previous engagement, and was taken to a coalition hospital for treatment. The other six are being held for further questioning.



Spc. William Hatton

Pfc. Joshua Barnes, a mechanic with HHSC, STB, 3rd Inf. Div., inspects various components of a vehicle to ensure that it runs properly.

MECHANICS: Soldiers give vehicles TLC

From Page 1

ing, knowledge of vehicle maintenance is very limited, he added. The more a Soldier gets to work and learn, the more success will follow.

"I've been in the Army now for six years," Parker said. "Being in for this long has taught me so much."

"I'm working on my fifth deployment," Williams said. "After being here so much, I try to take what I know and pass it on to some of the younger Soldiers."

"When we were leaving to come here, we got a lot of Soldiers straight out of AIT. A lot of them were inexperienced at first, but as we work together and they got more experience, their work started getting better," Williams said.

There are many reasons why a mechanic chooses his profession. Whether it's the a love of getting one's hands dirty, feeling a need to take something apart, or wanting to save some cash by working on one's own car, there is a joy that comes from helping the Soldiers who fight the enemy every day.

"I'd rather focus on the guy who goes outside the wire than the one who is going to the PX," Parker said. "Helping that guy is why I'm here, and that's why I love my job so much."

Safety Thought of the Day Drinking-Water Safety

Bottled water is best stored at temperatures of 95 degrees and below.
Pallets of bottled water should not be stacked more than one high.
Where controlled temperature is not possible, minimize the length of time the water is exposed to extreme heat • Discard any individual bottles with split or unsecured caps.

- Avoid exposing bottle closures to penetrating odors or exposure to direct ultraviolet light.
- Rinse dirty or dusty bottles, with potable water, prior to consumption.

Headline Highlights

Smelly feet; killers' loophole; female bull run

Smelly feet trigger police raid

BERLIN (Reuters) — German police broke into a darkened apartment fearing they would find a dead body, after neighbors complained of a nasty smell seeping out onto the staircase.

The shutters of the apartment had been closed for more than a week and the mailbox was filled with uncollected mail.

But instead of a corpse, they found a tenant with very smelly feet, asleep in bed next to a pile of foul-smelling laundry, police in the southwestern town of Kaiserslautern said on Sunday.

Lost staple lets killers appeal

SYDNEY (Reuters) — A missing staple from a court document has allowed two murderers found guilty of one of Australia's most brutal killings to appeal against their convictions.

Under a technical loophole, the murderers will argue that an earlier lost appeal was not finalized because the indictment paperwork was never fixed to the court file as required by law.

"It just seems so wrong," said Bev

Balding, mother of Janine Balding who was abducted and brutally gang raped and drowned by a group of men on the outskirts of Sydney in 1988.

Balding's murderers are serving life sentences, with a judge's recommendation they never to be released.

"How do they know someone has not removed the staple on purpose? You can't rely on the law when it relies on a solitary staple," Bev Balding told reporters Monday.

The New South Wales state government said it was looking at ways to close the technical loophole.

"I understand that closing this loophole through an amendment to the court rules of the supreme court is currently being considered...to avoid it being an issue of discussion in any future case," said NSW acting state premier John Watkins.

Women demand 'cow run'

MADRID (Reuters) — Women in the northern Spanish city of Pamplona, world-famous for its ferocious bullrunning festival, are demanding their own version complete with cows instead of bulls.

A student Web site, www.estudiln. net, set the ball rolling with its campaign "Cows want to run" which asks for a separate encierro, as the bull-runs are known, where only women are allowed to take part.

Women have been allowed to take part in the San Fermin bull-running for some years but they still represent a tiny minority of the thousands of runners who attempt to dodge 600kilo bulls along an 800-metre course through the streets of Pamplona.

The students say it's only logical that women should have their own bullrun.

"Cows, as well as bulls, have four legs and a natural instinct to run," says their manifesto. "An encierro for cows, would put Pamplona at the vanguard of traditional fiestas with equality for men and women."

Organizers of the festival, which runs from July 7-14, have not responded to the suggestion. And just what the late Ernest Hemingway, who made the bull-run in Pamplona internationally famous, would have thought will never be known.

Marne Weather Watch								
Tuesday, July 10	Wednesday, July 11							
Sunny Low: 92F/High: 118F	Sunny Low: 90F/High: 117F							
ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY								
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