

THE

Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Geronimo Strike III yields 2 captures

4TH BCT (ABN.), 25TH INF. DIV.

KALSU — Paratroopers from Strike Force Geronimo detained two suspected al Qaeda insurgents during an air assault and raid July 10 northwest of Iskandariyah.

Paratroopers from Company A, 3rd Battalion, 509th Airborne, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division conducted Operation Geronimo Strike III in order to capture members of an Al Qaeda cell wanted in connection with the kidnapping of three American Soldiers and other attacks against Iraqi and Coalition Forces.

“Tonight, we conducted an air assault into the Jurf As Sukr area look-

See GERONIMO, Page 3



Sgt. Ernest Henry

1st Lt. John Lafferty, a platoon leader with Co. A, 3-509th Abn., searches the inside of a target house during Operation Geronimo Strike III.

Polar Bear doc has heart-to-heart mission for Iraqi girl

Spc. CHRIS McCANN
2ND BCT, 10TH MTN. DIV. PAO

FOB YUSUFYIAH — Maj. Kenneth Stone has a special mission: Help an Iraqi girl avoid certain death.

The little girl, Sabine, has a hole in her heart, said Stone, battalion surgeon for 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment “Polar Bears,” 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y.

When Sabine’s father, Muhammad, brought her to the Yusufiyah aid sta-

tion, Stone was the only provider who could have recognized the congenital deformity in her heart.

Stone specializes in cardiac medicine, although as a battalion surgeon in a combat zone, he spends more time treating battle trauma and the minor illnesses of Soldiers and local Iraqis who come to the battalion aid station for treatment. Sabine’s case is different.

“She has a ventricular septal defect,” said Stone, a native of Ames, Iowa. “Basically it’s a hole in her heart, between

the ventricles.

“I jumped all over this because it was something cardiology-related,” Stone explained. “It really grabbed my interest. When her father brought her in and had no specific complaints except a heart problem, it sounded like a VSD to me.”

Muhammad told Stone that he had planned to have Sabine’s heart surgically repaired in 2003, but the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq prevented it. Because

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1-15 Soldier follows in family's bootprints

SPC. BEN HUTTO

3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FOB HAMMER — When Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Gan, the platoon sergeant for Company E, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, deployed to Iraq in March with the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team his family was prepared.

His two younger brothers, Joshua and Jacob, were all ready in country with their units.

“Josh and I were both in Iraq during OIF I (Operation Iraqi Freedom),” said Gan, 28, from Crocker, Mo. “It really wasn’t a big deal. My mom was a military brat. My father is a retired command sergeant major. The both understood what I had to do. It is the same way now.”

Jacob Gan, a Blackhawk helicopter crew chief, has gone home, but not before the three brothers got together on the phone.

“We all haven’t been together since Thanksgiving 2006,” he said. “We all have different jobs. I’m an engineer, Josh is a mechanic and Jacob is doing the helicopter thing, but we still give each other a hard time. We don’t compare jobs, but if someone doesn’t get a (physical training) patch they will really catch it. We compete.”

He said his wife understands what he is doing as well, as she stays back on their farm in Crocker and raises their three children.

It would be easy to assume that Gan was destined to be a Soldier, but he insisted that he chose to pursue a career in the Army on his own.

“I just didn’t know what I was going to do. I wanted to go Infantry, but I wanted to be able to come back to Fort Leonard Wood later in my career. Engineer was the way to go.”



Spc. Ben Hutto

Gan briefs two of his Soldiers before a mission at FOB Hammer.

Gan said he is heavily influenced by his father, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Gan, but insisted that he was never pushed into the military.

“I researched everything on my own,” he said. “I wanted it to be my decision. I was a recruiter’s dream. I walked in and knew exactly what I wanted and how I was going to do it.”

Regardless of whose decision it was, Gan said he still gets advice from his father.

“I talk with my dad all the time,” he said. “He counsels me weekly about what I’m doing. He’s retired, but I don’t think he ever really got out of the military. He is a civilian contractor out at Ft. Leonard Wood and he’s still training Soldiers and Marines. I’ve gotten all of my standards from my father. I’ve always tried to emulate him as much as I could.”

Those standards have made him an important part of Company E.

“(Gan) has been to almost every

school in the Army,” said Staff Sgt. Andrew Duley, a squad leader in Company E. “His knowledge on the ground is irreplaceable. He will not put any one of his Soldiers in danger without being there beside him. He defiantly leads from the front. He enforces the standards like no other man in this brigade.”

Duley, 27, from Greenville, S.C., is one of many Soldiers in 1st Platoon, Company E, who is grateful that Gan is there with them.

“I can’t think of anyone else I’d rather go to war with,” said Spc. Andrew Camp, 20, Davie County, N.C., Gan’s driver in Company E. “He’s easy going until it’s time to get serious and then its game on. He’s real intense when stuff starts happening on missions, but he’s never led us wrong. He takes charge of situations and does what he’s supposed to do.”

Gan’s work ethic has earned the respect of everyone around him explained Duley.

“Sgt. Gan has not had a day off since we’ve deployed,” he explained. “He’s rolled out on every mission. It’s just not in him to relax while his Soldiers are out there.”

Being an engineer has its dangers, but it’s the job Gan has to do.

“Our job is very important,” he said. “Route clearance is slow, tedious and methodical at times, but I like the job. It is sort of like a puzzle. Bomb makers are constantly changing their tactics so it can be tough to stay to the left of boom ... We take out IEDs before they can take out our guys.”

Gan’s Soldiers respect him for his knowledge and passion for the job.

“Sgt. Gan has taught us everything we know,” Camp said. “We came over here prepared and ready to roll. You can’t ask more of an NCO than that.”

THE Dog Face Daily

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214th Fires Brigade
82nd Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

GERONIMO: 4/25 Paratroopers capture two wanted al Qaeda terrorists during recent air assault, raid

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ing for two high-level targets, some of the guys involved in the missing Soldiers incident,” said Capt. Matthew Gregory, commander of Co. A and a Charlotte, N.C., native. “This is an area that Coalition Forces had not been to in a little while. This shows them we have the ability to get in places they thought they were safe and get them where they live.”

In addition to capturing the cell members, the operation netted two AK-47 assault rifles, eight fully loaded magazines, two hand grenades and a ski mask.

“Going after the worst of the worst is what Operation Geronimo Strike was designed to do,” said 1st Lt. John Lafferty, a platoon leader with Co. A, from Valdese, N.C. “There are guys who are on the fence, and when they hear we’re capturing their leadership, we have a better chance of stabilizing the government and legitimizing the security forces here.”

The insurgents are being held for further questioning.

The weapons and ammunition were confiscated for use in the investigation.



Courtesy photo
Maj. Kenneth Stone, battalion surgeon for the 4-31st Inf. Regt., poses for a snapshot with Sabrine, an Iraqi girl with a congenital heart defect, and her father Muhammad at the 4-31 battalion aid station on FOB Yusu-fiyah.

DOC: Iraqi girl receives medical attention

From Page 1

she is still young, her heart has been able to handle the delay.

But when he brought her to Stone, he unknowingly did so at a time when everything lined up just right.

Capt. Chris Tilton, a Boston native who works in the Yusufiyah aid station with Stone, said he was amazed by the circumstances.

“This kid could not have (arrived) at a better time,” Tilton said. “The stars lined up just right, to have a cardiologist here, with a friend who works at the 28th Combat Support Hospital and a pediatric cardiologist in charge of medical operations in Baghdad. She wouldn’t have received the care she’s hopefully going to get now. If she had come in while we were transitioning when we first got here, or if Stone hadn’t been here, we might not have even caught that there was a problem.”

Stone served his cardiac medicine

fellowship with a doctor who currently serves at the 28th CSH.

“I asked for an echocardiogram to be done, to see if the defect was still correctable, so we took her to the hospital about two weeks ago,” he said.

Sabrina’s heart is still correctable, and the two cardiologists hope to be able to get Sabrina to a hospital outside Iraq for the surgery to repair the VSD. The 28th CSH is so overwhelmed with trauma patients that they simply cannot provide the surgery.

Recent unrest in Baghdad has kept the workers of the NAIC from being able to leave the International Zone.

“If she can get treated, she could have a normal life,” Tilton said. “But we can only do what we can do. Out of everything I’ve seen here, she’s the one with the potential to be the biggest humanitarian relief success story.”

Coordinating visas, travel vouchers, money, and other necessary things to get Sabrina to surgery is difficult, Stone said.

“Her dad is really agonizing – it’s his daughter. I’m a parent, I understand how that feels, and I want this to work out so she can get surgery. But the CSH gets requests like this all the time and they have to turn people down. She’s getting this possibility because I’m her advocate, but in Iraq, there are probably hundreds of kids who need this and can’t get it, and will die.”

Stone said he hopes to get a charitable organization to help defray the costs of Sabrina’s needs.

“It could take a few weeks – of course, it could fall through, with nothing happening at all, although I hope not.

“Sometimes I wonder if it’s right to help one child, when I can’t do it for everyone, but obviously it will feel good if it goes through.”

Safety Thought of the Day Countermeasures to Brownout

- If possible, plan approaches to improved surface areas, avoiding loose dirt and light dust areas.
- Pilot technique – make a positive approach to the ground, avoiding extended hovering close to the ground (within 50’).
- Make approaches directly into the wind or with a front quartering wind that will blow out the dust as quickly as possible. During formation landings, ensure the formation

flown keeps subsequent chalks from landing into the blowing dust created by the chalks in front of it.

- Make approaches to a defined point that provides the largest amount of visual references possible. This is extremely important during NVG landings.
- Upon touchdown, ensure there is minimal forward movement to prevent striking an unseen obstacle or your wingman.

Headline Highlights

Bounty on flies; early arrival; karaoke bar ban

Suburb puts bounty on flies

BEIJING (Reuters) — A Chinese city suburb has set a bounty on dead flies in a bid to promote public hygiene, Xinhua news agency said Tuesday.

Xigong, a district of Luoyang in the central province of Henan, paid out more than 1,000 yuan (\$125) for about 2,000 dead flies on July 1, the day it launched the scheme with the aim of encouraging cleanliness in residential areas.

The payment scheme is the first of its kind in Luoyang, a city of 1.55 million people which is striving to earn the title of “state-level hygienic city.”

But critics have questioned the benefits of paying 0.5 yuan (seven U.S. cents) per insect turned in, a scheme which has sparked an online debate.

An Internet user said that although the office had good intentions, the action itself had made the district a laughing stock.

China has a history of using unorthodox means to eradicate pests. When Mao Zedong launched the “Four Pests” campaign during the Great Leap Forward in the 1950s, citizens were ordered to kill flies, mosquitoes, rats and sparrows.

Pest control efforts included banging pots and pans to scare sparrows into flight and have them eventually drop to earth dead from exhaustion.

Let’s do this again, next year!

LONDON (Reuters) — Teacher Dave Barclay flew thousands of miles across the Atlantic to Wales to attend his friend’s wedding, only to discover he was a year early.

Barclay, 34, was told about the wedding earlier in the year and assumed it was to take place in 2007.

It was only when he had flown into Cardiff from Toronto, Canada, and rang the bridegroom seeking details of the venue that he discovered the wedding was in 2008.

“I am a year early— yeah, my mates are loving it, aren’t they,” he told BBC Radio Wales.

The groom, Dave Best, had emailed his friend at the start of the year.

“He just said July the 6th and I assumed it was this year because if you tell the guy July 6th, they’re going to think it’s this year,” Barclay said.

Barclay, who has been teaching in Toronto for three years spent 500 pounds (\$1,015) on his premature flight.

“At least it’s assured me a mention in the speech next year,” he added.

Bars, Internet cafes banned

SEOUL (Reuters) — North Korea’s security agency has ordered the shut-down of karaoke bars and Internet cafes, saying they are a threat to society, a South Korean newspaper reported Wednesday.

Refugees from the reclusive state say such outlets are largely located in the northern region that borders China and are frequented by merchants involved in cross-border business rather than ordinary citizens.

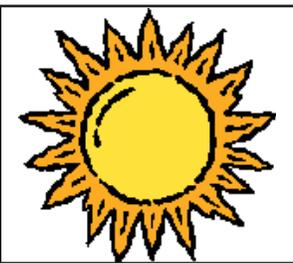
The North’s Ministry of People’s Security said in a directive that all karaoke bars, video-screening rooms and Internet cafes operating without state authorization must shut immediately, the Dong-A Ilbo newspaper said.

The paper did not say how it obtained a copy of the directive.

“It is so promulgated under the mandate of the Republic in order to crush enemy scheming and to squarely confront those who threaten the maintenance of the socialist system,” the daily quoted the ministry directive as saying.

Marne Weather Watch

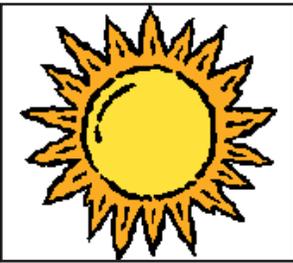
Thursday, July 12



Sunny

Low: 88F/High: 117F

Friday, July 13



Sunny

Low: 88F/High: 116F

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Can you help me find a ... ? *teg-dar it-sah-ed-nee il-geh...*?

S
U
D
O
K
U

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday’s puzzle:

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