

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Huggins: 'Too soon to tell' if surge effective

TF MARNE PAO

During recent media interviews, Task Force Marne leadership said it's too soon to predict the future outcome of the troop surge in Iraq.

"It's too early to tell, but it's also too early to say it won't work," said Brig. Gen. Jim Huggins, Task Force Marne deputy commanding general – support, during a July 12 CNN interview. "I believe (by) about September we'll

*"By about
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be able to give
a much better
assessment."*

— Brig. Gen. Jim Huggins
TF Marne deputy
commanding general
— support

be able to give a much better assessment in terms of what the long-term picture for security is in the country."

An additional 20,000 Soldiers arrived in Baghdad and its surrounding areas as part of the surge.

The last brigade, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Ga., didn't arrive until mid-June.

However, the U.S.-led effort in the southern belt of Iraq has already brought about positive results, according to Col. Mark McKnight, TF Marne and 3rd Inf. Div. chief of staff

"From a division mission perspective, I would say that we've had very good success in the last 21 days of operations," McKnight said

Secure and destroy



Pvt. Jon Cano

Pfc. Christopher Edwards, a sapper with Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) rigs a bridge with explosives along Quarghulli Village. The Soldiers air-assaulted into the village and worked with Soldiers of Co. D, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment to secure and destroy a bridge used by al Qaeda to traffic foreign fighters and weapons into the southern belt of Baghdad.

"The bridge was the last remaining bridge that was being used by anti-Iraqi forces in that area," said Lt. Col. Jeffery Harrison, 2nd BSTB commander. "They were trafficking arms and ammunition and moving foreign fighters — it was a way for them to move around. Removing that bridge allowed 4-31 to stop that movement and hopefully reduce some of the attacks in the area."

Quarterly Safety Roundup

On June 21, Task Force Marne passed the 90-day mark in theater, and it's time for a look at how we are doing in the safety arena. During our first quarter, TF Marne experienced 36 recordable accidents (2.7 per 1000 personnel), compared with 101 recordable accidents (3.3 per 1000 personnel) during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. This represents an 18% reduction in our accident rate. This is a major improvement and reflects superior discipline and leadership within TF Marne. Marne Soldiers throughout Iraq deserve a pat on the back for their role in upholding safety standards and reducing accidents.

At the same time, we can do better, and we must never become complacent where safety is concerned. Personal injuries continue to be the number one cause of accidents. Our current trends for non-battle injuries indicate the areas listed below to be major threats to TF Marne Soldiers:

1. Heat Injury. Even as we acclimate to the weather in Iraq, it continues to get hotter. Combined with the increase in operations this summer, there is a potential for a significant increase in heat injuries. Each Soldier and leader must do their part to enforce heat injury prevention standards and mitigation measures. Know the early warnings signs and get immediate attention.

2. Fratricide. The most important friendly fire preventive measures are maintaining situational awareness and positive identification of the target before engagement. Soldiers must know their position on the battlefield in relation to other friendly elements. Having positive identification before engaging the enemy ensures that the shooter is aiming at the enemy, and not one of his buddies. Visit the CALL Handbook 92-3 (Fratricide Risk Management) and 92-4 (Reducing Fratricide) on the TF Marne Safety SIPR web page for more fratricide prevention measures.

3. Vehicle Accidents. These accidents tend to be more serious than most others, so be aware of the factors that cause them. These include fatigue, driving at night without NVGs, driving too fast for visibility, driving too fast for the vehicle weight and handling characteristics, and being overconfident and in a hurry. Remember, the use of seat belts will prevent Soldiers from becoming a fatality if they are involved in an accident.

4. Electrical. Iraq is littered with faulty electrical problems, especially in some of our smaller satellite bases. In addition, many units are being powered by large generators for which there is no maintenance contract. There have been two electrocutions in theater in the past few months as well as a number of electrical shocks, so take the threat seriously. Soldiers should not touch anything they are not trained to work on.

As we continue our efforts fighting the War on Terrorism, we must also continue to guard against needless accidents. LEADERS, STAY ENGAGED ON BOTH FRONTS.

RICK LYNCH
Major General, USA
Commanding

PREVENT ACCIDENTS: CALL 822-5576

THE Dog Face Daily

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2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry)
4th Brigade (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade
214th Fires Brigade
82nd Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

SURGE: TF Marne leaders say Soldiers' efforts paying off gradually

From Page 1

during a recent video teleconference with reporters from Coastal Georgia. "(We're) going into areas that we before could not go into (and) getting the cooperation of the population in areas where we had not had the cooperation before, because we just hadn't had the presence there."

Huggins said the increase in troop numbers has made a clear difference in both security efforts and offensive operations.

"We now have enough forces where we can go into these sanctuaries where typically the extremists are ... and we're able to attack their networks and cells," he said.

The influx of Soldiers has also contributed to the continued improvement of Iraqi Security Forces.

"We are seeing progress, particularly in the Iraqi army, at least in our sector," McKnight said. "The Iraqis take it very

seriously that they are raising a legitimate, disciplined police and army, because they understand the importance of it to their country's future."

He added that the ongoing joint patrols have been steadily improving the relationship between American ground forces and Iraqi soldiers.

"When you get out on the ground and you see the joint patrols going on, there's a lot of trust there between the units that are patrolling."

Huggins emphasized that although efforts in the Multi-National Division – Center area of operations have been effective thus far, the difference brought about by increasing troop numbers will be seen more vividly as the months pass.

"I can tell you that the Iraqi army we deal with is in very good shape," Huggins said. "As always, we would like more time and more forces."

Care Team looks after troops

Spc. BEN HUTTO

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

FOB HAMMER – Senior leadership of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team continues to look after the welfare of their Soldiers through the Sledgehammer Care Team.

The care team was set up during Operation Iraqi Freedom III as a tool for the 3rd HBCT commander to identify problems and provide support for Soldiers and their families.

The care team's main focus is to support the families of fallen Soldiers and maintain weekly contact with Soldiers wounded in action and provide both groups with any support they may need during and after the deployment.

Col. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 3rd HBCT commander, has made the care team one of his top priorities.

"Col. Grigsby has really taken the concept of the team and ran with it," said Capt. Ewa Garner, the physicians assistant for the 203rd Brigade Support Battalion. "He is very concerned about the Soldiers and constantly checks the care team book to see trends and what is going on with (Soldiers wounded in action) and the families of the (Soldiers killed in action)."

Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy Sowers, the brigade chaplain ensures that the team tends to the needs of wounded Soldiers and their loved ones.

"I get very excited knowing that our command puts such great emphasis on taking care of Soldiers and their families," Sowers said. "They have made such a sacrifice that it is a great honor

to be able to help them through the grieving and recovering process. I sincerely hope that our effort encourages them."

Garner and Capt. Joycelyn Constantino, the brigade nurse, help track wounded 3rd HBCT Soldiers.

"We call and gather all the information as far as how (the Soldiers) are doing, where they are, and their plan for rehabilitation," Constantino said. "The phone call really helps us determine where they are in their recovery and how we can assist in that process."

Garner makes the weekly phone calls to gather information and make sure that 3rd HBCT Soldiers know that they are still remembered by their comrades at FOB Hammer.

Garner said she feels that despite some of the logistical hurdles involved with making the calls from Iraq, it is an important job.

Another aspect of taking care of Soldiers involves seeing to their legal needs. Capt. Paul Lloyd, the brigade's operation law attorney, has taken on that responsibility.

"We provide the commander with trends for what legal actions are happening with Soldiers," he said. "This is more of a helpful measure than a punitive one."

Capt. Angela Mobbs, the brigade physiologist, helps advise the commander on his Soldiers' general well-being.

"The commander checks on trends and constantly checks to make sure that no problems are arising," she said.

Grigsby has used the information in



Spc. Ben Hutto

Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy Sowers Command Sgt. Maj. James M. Pearson look through the 3rd HBCT's care team book.

the care team's book to send letters to the families of every fallen 3rd HBCT Soldier from OIF III to the present deployment. He also used it to write all the brigade's WIAs on Independence Day.

Command Sgt. Maj. James M. Pearson, the enlisted advisor to Grigsby, is planning to visit all of 3rd HBCT's wounded Soldiers on the East Coast while he is home for his two weeks of mid-tour rest and recovery.

"I just want to thank them for their service," he said. "It is important to me that I personally thank each and every one of them for their service to their country. I want to let them know that as long as there is oxygen in my lungs, I will help them anyway I can."

Headline Highlights

Prickly pests; scared students; mystery money

Prickly pests pierce security

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — A new type of intruder has been needling authorities at Israel's top secret nuclear research center — one of the four-legged variety.

Israeli Parks Authority spokeswoman Osnat Eitan confirmed a newspaper report that park rangers had been sent to the facility at Dimona, believed by experts to be used to produce atomic weapons, to catch dozens of porcupines that have been chewing through saplings and garden hoses. Using potatoes and chocolate milk as bait, the prickly animals were being trapped and moved elsewhere, Eitan said.

The Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper quoted the site's gardener, David Golan, as saying a porcupine population explosion posed a security threat.

Israel says its conducts nuclear research in Dimona in the Negev desert and refuses to comment on reports that the reactor has produced plutonium for atomic bombs.

Students: school setting scary

PATNA, India (Reuters) — Scores of Indian children attending a school located in a graveyard were having recurring nightmares about ghosts and have appealed to authorities to shift them from the site, officials and residents said.

"I have stopped going to school after many dead people walked out of their graves and came into my dreams, ordering me to reach school on time,"

said six-year-old Raqib Ansari.

This week, hundreds of children at the school in the eastern state of Bihar, accompanied by their parents, marched to the office of a senior district official, asking for the school to be shifted away from the Muslim graveyard.

About 200 children study in the makeshift school set up several years ago after authorities refused to donate land for a school in Kohari village, 125 miles southwest of the state capital, Patna. Some parents say their children's sleep and health is being affected by dreams of ghosts.

"They used to play and study together and finish their lunch boxes while sitting on top of concrete graves but now the ghosts have come to haunt them at night and they are falling ill," said one father, Riyazuddin Ansari.

"We have no choice as the nearest other school is at least four hours away," he said by phone from Kohari.

Men's room money a mystery

TOKYO (Reuters) — An elderly man nearing death who wants to give something back to the world, or just a prankster?

The mystery of who is leaving envelopes of 10,000 yen (\$82) bills in men's toilets at government offices around Japan has gripped the nation this week despite the existence of far weightier issues, such as a looming election.

Since April 9, some 4 million yen (\$32,720) has been found in men's rooms from the northernmost island of Hokkaido to the southern island of Okinawa, Japanese media say. Virtu-

ally all has been found in government office buildings.

Each comes with a handwritten letter in formal wording evoking Buddhist language, saying the giver hopes the money will be "useful for your pursuit of knowledge."

The only thing everyone agrees on, given where the money is found, is that the person leaving them is a man.

The wording of the letter suggests a man with strong religious beliefs to some experts quoted in the media, while others think he is a former civil servant trying to cheer those in the same job, often the target of citizen anger.

Still others believe the message may actually be a sarcastic reproof telling civil servants to clean up their act.

Handwriting experts say the letters are all written by the same person, whose shaky handwriting suggests somebody elderly or seriously ill, and note that the writing has worsened over the months since the first set of bills was found.

"The fact that the letters end with the phrase 'please be happy' points to somebody who's unhappy themselves — who's perhaps facing up to their death and wants to give something back to the world," the Asahi Shimbun quoted one expert as saying.

But others think the man is a prankster who wants to create a stir in society while remaining unknown. Their proof is that the envelopes are left in toilets — which lack security cameras.

The money has been handed to the police, but if nobody claims the cash within six months it will be given to the finders.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Surrender

iss-tes-lem