

# THE Dog Face Daily

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*Serving Task Force Marne*

## Iraqi army beefs up infantry

**SGT. 1ST CLASS ANGELA MCKINZIE**  
2ND BCT, 10TH MTN. DIV. (LI) PAO

MAHMUDIYAH — Sweat pours off the bodies of Iraqi soldiers as they low crawl their way through uneven terrain and negotiate various obstacles under the unforgiving heat of the Iraqi sun in hopes that they will make it through the day. But this day is day zero, and it doesn't even count.

Iraqi soldiers from 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division participated in the first-ever advanced infantry course, dubbed the Commando Course, at the IA Compound in Mahmudiyah.

The course, planned and designed by NCOs of 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., was developed to give the IA soldiers advanced infantry training skills.

"(The NCOs and I) thought it would be a great idea to offer something a little more advanced to the (Iraqi troops)," said Command Sgt. Maj. Tony Grinston, 2-15 command sergeant major. "So we developed the Commando Course, which offered advanced training in areas such as marksmanship, physical fitness, map reading, land navigation and troop-leading procedures."

But before the course could start, the NCOs had to acquire all the materials and build the obstacles.

"We built an obstacle a day," said Sgt. 1st Class John Lindsey, Commando Course head instructor. "The field that the obstacles are located in was once



Sgt. 1st Class Angela McKinzie

Sgt. Mohammed Kazim (front), a squad leader with 4/4/6th IA Div., and Sgt. Jason Carvel, a PSD squad leader with 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI), run through tires at the advanced infantry course in Mahmudiyah.

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Staff Sgt. Tony Lindback

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston spends time talking with Soldiers of Task Force Marne at Patrol Base Murray July 16. After meeting with TF Marne Command Sergeant Major Jesse L. Andrews Jr. at Camp Victory, they both flew to PB Copper, PB Murray and Combat Outpost Cleary. Preston asked Soldiers how they felt about 15-month deployments for active-duty Soldiers, and explained that it is the Army chief of staff's intent that no deployments exceed 15 months.

## Weapons stockpiles destroyed near Iranian border

214TH FIRES BRIGADE PAO

FOB DELTA – Iraqi border guards led Coalition Forces to two weapons stockpiles near the Iranian border, a sign they are taking steps to secure their nation.

Iraqi border guards from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Region Department of Border Enforcement led members of U.S. Border Transition

Team 4321, known as Team Nomad, to a stockpile of 35, 122mm rounds July 13, during a patrol in Dehnuk, Iraq, near the Iranian border.

The weapons were staged to be sold or moved to insurgents, according to Col. Mark Mueller, team leader for BTT 4300. Weapons are often collected at one location and then smuggled into al Kut, he said.

The Iraqi border guards led Team

Nomad to a second weapon stockpile July 14 along the Iraq/Iranian border.

The stockpile consisted of six 122mm rounds, five RPG-7 grenades, 10 81mm mortar rounds, and six 60mm mortar rounds. All of the weapons are believed to be leftover from the Iran and Iraq War and were destroyed during control detonations by the Khazakstani Explosive Ordnance Team, Coalition partners also serving at FOB Delta.

### THE Dog Face Daily

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## INFANTRY: *IA hones combat skill*

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covered in weeds that were waist high. We had the engineers come out and level the field so we could use the area as the obstacle course location.”

The obstacle course consists of 10 stations. NCOs also built a shoot house and found an area to conduct map reading, land navigation and tactical operations before the course started. The 25-day course began July 8 after day zero, a day that gauges who will actually be admitted into the course.

“There were 100 soldiers who originally started, but we lost 56 soldiers on day zero,” Grinston explained. “This is not an easy course, but the students really like it and are excited to be here.”

The course, beginning with physical fitness at the break of dawn each day, consists of three phases: weapons, troop-leading procedures and land navigation; advanced combat lifesaving; and air assault operations.

“It is similar to the U.S. Army Ranger Course,” Grinston said of the Commando Course. “Here the Iraqi junior enlisted soldiers will learn how to conduct missions on their own without the help of any officers.”

Sgt. Mohammed Kazim, who serves as a squad leader with 4/4/6 IA, is enrolled in the Commando Course.

“Here I have learned how to be mentally and physically tough,” he said. “Although the class is fun, it is challenging — especially the obstacle course.”

The course taught the soldiers more than skills — it taught discipline.

And that discipline was shown as Iraqi Pvt. Akeel Hamid Abdalrthea, with a perfect haircut and a shaven face, stood at parade rest (a military courtesy) as a senior NCO spoke to him.

“I have learned so much in the course and how important it is to be disciplined and experienced,” Abdalrthea said.

As part of training, soldiers participated in a live-fire exercise. They also developed their own sand tables, a table used to show how a mission will be conducted, before going on mock missions.

“They write and carry out an entire operational order by themselves,” Grinston said. “And you can tell they are learning because in their sand tables they used cigarette butts to mark spots where packs of dogs hang out.”

Marking the dogs’ location was important because their barking would give away the soldiers’ position.

“Marking the dogs shows attention to detail,” Grinston said. “I would have never thought of that.”

One aspect of the course that was a challenge for the soldiers was map reading because they had to learn American



Sgt. 1st Class Angela McKinzie

Sgt. 1st Class John Lindsey shows Pvt. Mohammed Kazem how to find an eight-digit grid coordinate.

numerals. But with the help of interpreters, the soldiers learned how to find an eight-digit grid coordinate and use plotted grid coordinates to find land navigation points.

“As long as they are here I am happy to help them learn,” Lindsey said. “I hope these courses will help build confidence within the junior ranks of the Iraqi army.”

“This course is just as challenging, if not more challenging, than U.S. Army courses that I have been through,” said Sgt. Jason Carvel, a 2nd BCT personal security detachment squad leader, as he gasped for breath after completing the obstacle course. “The Iraqi soldiers are dealing with hotter temperatures and rougher terrain than traditional U.S. military students deal with. This is not an easy course, but it is the right kind of course.”

When the students graduate they will receive a tab, similar to that of the U.S. Army Ranger tab, which says Commando Course in Arabic and English; a certificate of completion and a 2nd BCT coin. The tab has been approved by the 4-6 IA commander to be worn on the IA uniform sleeve. The students are scheduled to graduate Aug. 2.

## Safety Thought of the Day

### Three Points of Contact

- Dismount the vehicle using the proper steps and hand holds — never jump.
- Ensure handholds, rails, and foot rests are properly emplaced and anchored before putting weight on them.
- Keep the vehicle’s steps and handholds clean, dry, and free of mud and oil. This will allow better traction

and decrease the chance of slipping and falling.

- Entry and exits from the back of an LMTV are best accomplished with the use of the vehicle’s cargo ladder.
- Remember — three points of contact increases your stability and balance, so step up and get a grip with both hands.



## Headline Highlights

# Bus passenger 'distracting'; rats in restaurants

## Woman 'too sexy' for bus

BERLIN (Reuters) — A German bus driver threatened to throw a 20-year-old sales clerk off his bus in the southern town of Lindau because he said she was too sexy, a newspaper reported Monday.

"Suddenly he stopped the bus," the woman named Debora C. told Bild newspaper. "He opened the door and shouted at me 'Your cleavage is distracting me every time I look into my mirror and I can't concentrate on the traffic. If you don't sit somewhere else, I'm going to have to throw you off the bus.'"

The woman, pictured in Bild wearing her snug-fitting summer clothes with the plunging neckline, said she moved to another seat but was humiliated by the bus driver.

A spokesman for the bus company defended the driver.

"The bus driver is allowed to do that and he did the right thing," the spokesman said. "A bus driver cannot be distracted because it's a danger to the safety of all the passengers."

## Beauty queen stripped of title

LA PAZ (Reuters) — The winner of a Bolivian beauty contest for indigenous women was stripped of her title moments after her coronation when judges noticed she was wearing false plaits, organizers said Saturday.

The Miss Cholita Pacena pageant, held in the Andean city of La Paz late Friday, seeks to instill pride in indigenous women who choose to wear the

traditional dress of wide skirt, bowler hat and long plaited hair.

But doubts over whether the winner was a genuine Cholita Pacena — the name for Indian women from La Paz — led judges to strip her of her victor's sash and call for a rerun, said pageant organizer Walter Gomez from La Paz's city government.

The judges "disqualified the winner because they realized she didn't have plaits, that the plaits she had were false," he told Reuters. "Having short hair means they don't live like Cholitass."

Friday's contest was a far cry from the mainstream beauty contests that are popular in Bolivia, in which the South American nation's indigenous majority are under-represented.

Not a bikini in sight, the toughest test for the 14 contestants was making a speech in the native Aymara language to prove their Cholita credentials.

It is not the first time scandal has hit the pageant. In 2004, the winner caused a stir after her coronation by saying she did not normally wear traditional dress.

## As tasty as a truckload of rats

BEIJING (Reuters) — Live rats are being trucked from central China, suffering a plague of a reported 2 billion rodents displaced by a flooded lake, to the south to end up in restaurant dishes, Chinese media reported.

Rats had been doing a roaring trade thanks to strong supply over the last two weeks, the China News Service quoted vendors as saying.

"Recently there have been a lot of rats ... Guangzhou people are rich and like to eat exotic things, so business is very good," it quoted a vendor as saying, referring to the capital of Guangdong province, where people are reputed to eat anything that moves.

Some vendors, who declined to reveal their names, had asked people from a village in Hunan province, near Dongting Lake, to sell them live rats, the Beijing News said Monday.

"The buyers offered 6 yuan for a kg, but as to where they will sell the rats, they would not say," the newspaper quoted a local resident as saying, adding that villagers had to catch the rats alive.

"If we want to do that, there is no problem. We could catch 150 kg of rats in one night...but we will not do this against our conscience," the villager was quoted as saying. Some Guangdong restaurants were promoting "rat banquets," charging 136 yuan (\$18) for one kg of rat meat, the newspaper said.

But the restaurants denied their rats came from Hunan.

Local governments in Hunan have been grappling with the rats, which had already destroyed 1.6 million hectares (6,200 sq miles) of crops and could spread disease, according to media reports.

A lack of snakes, also a popular dish in the south, and owls, a traditional Chinese medicine, was held partly responsible.

Scientists have also blamed China's massive Three Gorges Dam project and climate change for the Hunan rodents' flight to dry land.

## Sudoku

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

## ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Are you related to him?

*in-teh tig-rab-leh?*