Serving Task Force Marne

Informants lead 2-14 to caches

2ND BCT, 10TH MTN. DIV. (LI) PAO

RUSHDI MULLAH - Iraqi informants led Coalition Forces to three massive caches north of Rushdi Mullah, Iraq, July 18.

Accompanying the informants were Soldiers of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., who helped seize the caches just 20 miles south of Baghdad.

"Over the last several weeks, the number of Iraqis who have been sharing tips with us is astounding," said Maj. Web Wright, a spokesperson for the 2nd BCT. "There has been a turning of the tides against al Qaeda in this area. The people are tired of them and are turning their backs on AQI."

All three caches were found buried in 55-gallon drums within 100 meters of one another.

The contents of the caches included 13 rocket propelled grenades, 150 bags of Russian mortar propellant charges, two 57mm mortar rockets, an armorpiercing rocket propelled grenade, four cylindrical explosive charges, two square explosive charges, two handlaunched star cluster flares, a Russian fragmentary hand grenade, 25 mortar propellant charges, 100 12.7mm DiSHKA heavy machine gun rounds, 20 25mm rounds, a 75-rounds Ak-47 ammunition drum, three sniper rifle scopes, two mortar sights, 10 cell phone chargers, five radios, a pressure plate, a machine gun lower receiver,



1st Lt. Zach Alessi-Friedlander

Maj. Kevin Wellington, a veterinarian with Multi-National Corps - Iraq, Spc. Chad Davidson, a medic with Troop C, 1-89th Cav., and an Iraqi boy prepare a cow for treatment at a veterinary operation.

Cav troops aid Iragi farmers

STAFF SGT. TODD PHIPPS 2ND BCT, 10TH MTN. DIV. (LI) PAO

ABU HILLAN,- An important part of the Iraqi reconstruction effort is helping the local residents; and that could range from providing them medical care to keeping their live stock healthy.

Soldiers of Troop C, 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., provided assistance to the local populace in Abu Hillan, Abu Sheikan and Safirah, Iraq. They are three villages south of Baghdad.

Soldiers of Troop C's mortar platoon, the Tactical Psychological Operations Team, and Maj. Kevin Wellington, a veterinarian who serves with Multi-National Corps - Iraq, provided veterinary assistance to the farmers living in and around the three villages, July 14.

After the tremendous success of

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VETCAP: Cav provides vet care to local animals

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the previous veterinary operation in Abu Shiekan, the word spread among the residents about the support provided during the visit.

Soon, residents of Abu Hillan requested a similar mission.

Early that morning the Soldiers loaded a trailer full of fencing, water and veterinary medical supplies and went to Abu Hillan to support this request.

When the patrol arrived at the Al-Salam Clinic, they cleared all the area buildings before putting up improvised animal pens. While the pens were being built, Soldiers traveled around the area announcing the opportunity to local farmers.

By 8 a.m., the holding pens were established and the message had been delivered.

The initial response from the area was minimum, with Wellington in the first two hours only conducting examinations on three cows.

But as the morning progressed, the trickle turned into a torrent. Several local farmers began to arrive with several herds of sheep, more cows and horses. The number of animals was so large that all Soldiers not pulling security were asked to help the residents with herding and controlling the animals.

"Being from the city, I never had to hold a sheep in my life before," said Sgt. 1st Class Jose Soriano Jr., a platoon sergeant from Trp. C., "But the operation went very well."

Wellington gave each animal flea-and-tick and de-worming medicines and advised the owners on general care procedures.

The operation was physically demanding in the heat of late morning, but worth the effort, said Wellington. More than 200 sheep, 10 cows and four horses were treated in the last hour.

Healthy animals are an important part of the farmers' lives, and essential to their economic survival, so veterinary care is critical to the agrarian community.

"The community responded well," said Capt. John Breslin, a platoon leader with 1-89. "This increased goodwill and rapport with the locals."

Champions!



Staff Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Pfc. Alton Propst, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, goes for a lay-up during the basketball championship held at Camp Victory July 18. The 3rd Inf. Div. team, "The Rock," trailed at halftime, 16-23, but came back to win the game and the championship against their rivals "The Upsetters" with a final score of 39-36.

THE

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214th Fires Brigade

82nd Sustainment Brigade

720th Military Police Battalion

Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

CACHE: Informant leads infantrymen to terrorist caches

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two 7.62mm machine gun barrels, two bottles of glucose, four vehicle cell phone chargers, an improvised explosive device command wire initiator, a hands-free telephone headset, an eight-battery holder, four cell phone batteries, a 4.8 voltage rechargeable battery, a sevenpiece antennae, two flip-open cell phones, four Motorola talk-abouts, a cordless phone, a cordless phone base, a toy cell phone IED initiator, two phone cords, an antennae extension, two keyless-entry devices with IED initiator switches, two magnets, two circuit boards and various nuts and bolts.

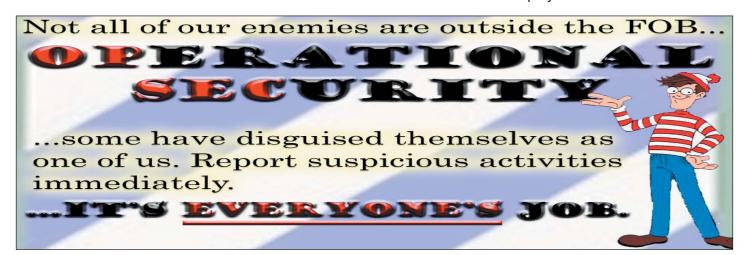
The radio and cell phone accessories are commonly used to detonate IEDs.

The ordnance was destroyed by an explosive ordnance disposal team.



Courtesy photo

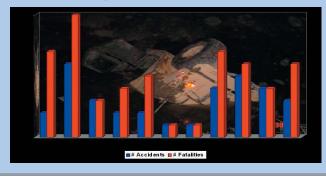
First Lt. Norm O'Neil, a platoon leader with Co. C, 2-14th Inf., sorts through the contents of three caches that were found north of Rushdi Mullah, Iraq, July 18. An Iraqi informant brought Coalition Forces to the sites. (Inset) The items uncovered in the three caches are displayed.



Safety Thought of the Day

Vehicle Rollover Drownings

- Route recons ensure roadways are solid, particularly after rain.
- Avoid operating vehicles too close to the shoulder of the road.
- If possible, use more experienced drivers during limited visibility or when operating on dirt roads along waterways.
- Discuss and rehearse rollover drills.
- Enforce seatbelt use to prevent injury. Seatbelts help maintain orientation and situational awareness.
- Emphasize crew coordination, particularly in identifying and reacting to hazards.



Headline Highlights

'Virginity ring' decision; no javelins for elderly

Girl loses 'virginity ring' battle

LONDON (Reuters) — A teenager whose teachers had stopped her wearing a "purity ring" at school to show a commitment to virginity lost a High Court fight against the ban Monday.

Lydia Playfoot, 16, says her silver ring is an expression of her faith and had argued in court that it should be exempt from school regulations banning the wearing of jewelry.

"I am very disappointed by the decision this morning by the High Court not to allow me to wear my purity ring to school as an expression of my Christian faith not to have sex outside marriage," Playfoot said in a statement. "I believe that the judge's decision will mean that slowly, over time, people such as school governors, employers, political organizations and others will be allowed to stop Christians from publicly expressing and practicing their faith."

Playfoot's legal challenge was the latest in a series of disputes in British schools in recent years over the right of pupils to wear religious symbols or clothing, such as crucifixes and veils.

Last year, the Law Lords rejected Shabina Begum's appeal for permission to wear a Muslim gown at her school in Luton. That case echoed a debate in France over the banning of Muslim headscarves in state schools.

Playfoot's parents are key members of the British arm of the American chastity campaign group the Silver Ring Thing, a religious group which urges abstinence among young people.

Those who sign up wear a ring on

the third finger of the left hand. It is inscribed with "Thess. 4:3-4," a reference to a Biblical passage from Thessalonians which reads: "God wants you to be holy, so you should keep clear of all sexual sin."

During the case, Playfoot's lawyers argued that the ban by her school in Horsham, West Sussex, breached her human rights to "freedom of thought, conscience and religion" which are protected by the European Convention on Human Rights.

Lawyers for the school denied discrimination and said the purity ring breached its rules on wearing jewelry.

They said allowances were made for Muslim and Sikh pupils only for items integral to their religious beliefs and that, for the same reason, crucifixes were also allowed. But it argued that the purity ring was not an integral part of the Christian faith.

Playfoot said in her statement she would consult her legal team to consider whether to appeal.

Irate computer user excused

BERLIN (Reuters) — A German man who startled his neighbors when he hurled his computer out of the window in the middle of the night, was let off for disturbing the peace by police who sympathized with his technical frustrations.

Police in the northern city of Hanover said they would not press charges after responding to calls made by residents in an apartment block who were woken by a loud crash in the early hours of Saturday. Officers found the street and pavement covered in electronic parts and discovered who the culprit was.

Asked what had driven him to the night-time outburst, the 51-year-old man said he had simply got annoyed with his computer.

"Who hasn't felt like doing that?" said a police spokesman.

While given no official sanction, the man was made to clear up the debris.

No javelins in seniors' track

MILAN (Reuters) — Italian officials said Tuesday that javelin throwing would be kept away from the track during the Masters athletics world championships in September, which will include competitors up to 90 years old.

French long jumper Salim Sdiri was speared by a flying javelin during the Golden League meeting in Rome Friday after Finnish thrower Tero Pitkamaki slipped at the end of his run-up.

Sdiri's injuries are not life-threatening and doctors do not believe he needs surgery but authorities in Riccione on Italy's east coast are taking no chances with the September 4-15 meeting which is for athletes over 35, including several senior citizens.

"The fields for throwing events are outside of the tracks," Daniele Imola, president of the organizing committee and Riccione mayor, told reporters.

Cesare Beccalli, president of World Masters Athletics, added: "There are even people of 85 or 90. It is important that almost all are well prepared and accidents are rare."

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5				2				9

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Are you related to them?

in-teh tig-rah-bil-hoom?