

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Scouts ambush, kill terrorists

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

AL-OWESAT — Troops of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment “Golden Dragons,” set an ambush on a small island off the Euphrates River near al-Owesat July 21 to prevent anti-Iraqi forces from escaping across the river.

Two insurgents were killed in the ambush by the Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), out of Fort Drum, N.Y.

A raft came toward their position, but because of vegetation along the banks, the Soldiers could not be sure if the people in the raft were insurgents. When the raft landed and the two men came toward the Soldiers, one was wearing an explosive-laden suicide vest. The troops killed both men.

As the Soldiers prepared to leave the island, they came

under heavy small-arms fire from two directions.

“The scouts were there to stop traffic across the river,” said Maj. Joel Smith, 2-14 operations officer, originally from Queensland, Australia. “They executed their mission perfectly. The terrorists came to the island thinking they were safe, and walked right up to the Soldiers’ position.”

“The scouts were able to get out without incident. It’s a demonstration of the professionalism of our elements operating in small teams, doing what light infantry Soldiers do.”

Smith said that the mission had a twofold effect.

“First, it was very consistent with what we were expecting — that anti-Iraqi forces are using the river for transportation. Secondly, it will make the enemy think twice about hiding there. Their hiding places are shrinking rapidly as Coalition and Iraqi forces control the battlefield.”

Petraeus visits 214th Soldiers

STAFF SGT. CARLOS J. LAZO

TF MARNE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FOB DELTA — Gen. David H. Petraeus met with senior leaders and Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Delta July 21. Petraeus, commanding general of Multi-National Force - Iraq, talked with senior leaders including members of the 214th Fires Brigade.

Afterwards, Petraeus thanked and awarded his personal coin to various Soldiers in the 214th FA Bde. for their service.

Among the recipients were Staff Sgt. Valerie G. Morris, S4 noncommissioned officer in charge, and Pfc. Phillip N. Hawkins, forward observer and fire support coordination specialist, both with the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 214th FA Bde..

“You must not sleep much,” said Petraeus to Morris, who manages two supply positions within the 214th, as the battery supply sergeant and as the S4 NCOIC.



Staff Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Gen. David H. Petraeus, MNF-I commander, awards his personal coin to Sgt. 1st Class David J. Lukasik, 214th FB, at FOB Delta July 21.

Additionally, Morris manages 10 property books for six coalition countries including the U.S.

Morris is one of many Soldiers that

kept operations at FOB Delta going by covering down and filling higher-ranking positions. The 214th FA Bde. is based out of Fort Sill, Okla.

Rebuilding effort focuses on EPRTs

SGT. J.H. FRENCH
4TH BCT (ABN.), 25TH INF. DIV.

KALSU – With the surge of troops into Iraq complete, a new surge is taking place: nation building. Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Teams, made up of Soldiers and civilians working to educate the Iraqi people on the nuts and bolts of democracy.

The EPRTs include members of the State Department, the United States Agency for International Development, and the military. This team concept brings the expertise of the State Department's nation builders, USAID's infrastructure development, and the military's planning and security assets together under one command.

Once security is re-established, the EPRTs can begin working in the communities, rebuilding those areas that have been hardest hit by the insurgency.

One of the major projects underway in the region is to rebuild and refurbish the system of waterways and canals in the Euphrates River Valley, a resource that is essential to the largely agricultural region south of Baghdad.

"In the past, the focus of water projects have been very local and only dealt with a specific farmer's canal or a vil-

"What we are doing now focuses on the entire region ... to improve irrigation for crops, the quality of drinking water, water for infrastructure and ways to reduce pollution both in the area and upstream."

— Sgt. 1st Class Kristopher Rick
EPRT medical adviser

lage well," said Sgt. 1st Class Kristopher Rick, the brigade's EPRT medical adviser. "What we are doing now focuses on the entire region. We are working to improve irrigation for crops, the quality of drinking water, water for infrastructure and ways to reduce pollution both in the area and upstream."

As the efforts of the EPRT begin to take affect, their biggest challenge may be time.

"We aren't building a sand castle to be washed away by the next wave," said

Capt. Chris Willis, the deputy embedded provincial reconstruction team. "We are building a nation and government that has to stand on its own when we leave and that takes time."

Due to security concerns and other coordination pieces, Willis said they are just now getting into the implementation phase of their plan. "It took a long time to figure out all of the projects going on in the region so we didn't just go back and redo something that had already been done three or four times."

The EPRT began focusing their efforts in seven different model communities ranging from municipal councils to agricultural unions.

"When we say model communities, we don't necessarily mean a neighborhood, we mean a group of people with a common interest," said Tom Timberman, the State Department representative and team leader of the 4th Brigade's EPRT. "With the help of civil affairs representatives, contractors and (non-governmental organizations) we want to provide the necessary aid to the communities so they are able to get off to a good start. Then we want to teach them how to manage their budgets and use government funding to become self sufficient."



THE Dog Face Daily

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4th Brigade (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade
214th Fires Brigade
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Training for success



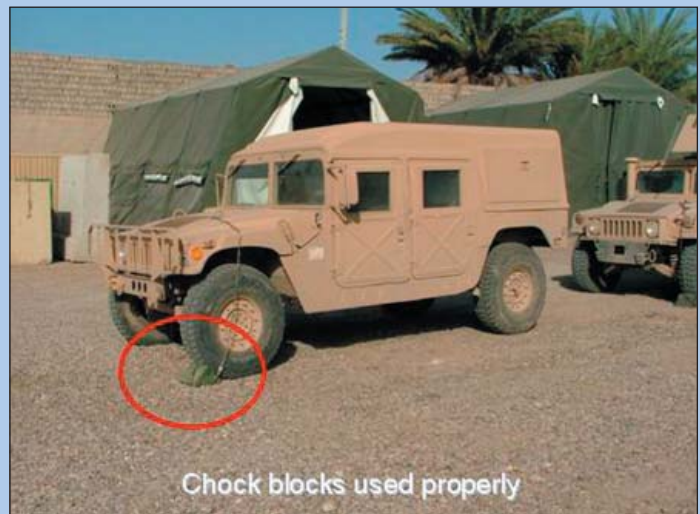
Sgt. Jacob Smith

Spc. Jesus Garcia, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), observes Iraqi Army soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 4th Regiment, 6th Iraqi Army Division while they conduct reacting to indirect fire training near Mahmudiyah July 19.

Safety Thought of the Day

Chock Blocks

- Remember to always chock your vehicles when they are to be left unattended.
- Be sure to place chock block on the down slope side (if unsure, block it front and rear).
- Chock vehicles prior to using jacks and jack stands.
- In the absence of chock blocks, use sand bags, large rocks, or any object that will restrict vehicle movement.
- A ratio of one chock block per vehicle is considered the norm. More is better, less is unacceptable.



Chock blocks used properly

Headline Highlights

Fake reporting; bomb jokes; roaming tiger

Reporter held for fake story

BEIJING (Reuters) — Beijing police have detained a television reporter for fabricating an investigative story about steamed buns stuffed with cardboard at a time when China's food safety is under intense international scrutiny.

A report directed by Beijing TV and played on state-run national broadcaster China Central Television last Thursday said an unlicensed snack vendor in eastern Beijing was selling steamed dumplings stuffed with cardboard soaked in caustic soda and seasoned with pork flavoring.

Beijing authorities said investigations had found that an employee surnamed Zi had fabricated the report to garner "higher audience ratings," the China Daily said Thursday.

"Zi had provided all the cardboard and asked the vendor to soak it. It's all cheating," the paper quoted a government notice as saying.

A city-wide inspection of steamed bun vendors in the wake of the report had found no such cases, the paper said.

Beijing TV had apologized for failing to check the report's authenticity and said it would make efforts to improve staff ethics, the paper added. China is reeling from a series of tainted food and drug scandals that have sparked criticism at home and abroad.

The deaths of patients in Panama from mislabeled drug ingredients from

China, deadly toxins in pet food exported to the United States and food laced with hazardous antibiotics and chemicals have raised fears about the safety of China's surging exports.

Wednesday, Premier Wen Jiabao pledged to improve food safety in a meeting with a visiting Japanese House of Representatives Speaker Yohei Kono, Kyodo news agency reported.

No bomb jokes on buses

MANILA (Reuters) — Filipino commuters face jail and large fines if they crack jokes about bombs on buses after a spate of deadly attacks, the police warned Thursday.

Andres Caro, a regional police chief, said they would start enforcing a law banning bomb gags on public transport after two men on a bus caused panicked earlier this week when they joked about carrying a bomb in their luggage.

"I wanted to remind everyone that we have a bomb joke law since the 1970s," Caro told reporters. "We only have to enforce the law strictly in the interest of public safety."

"We have to be serious about this."

Seven commuter buses have been bombed on the troubled southern island of Mindanao since April, killing nearly 15 people and wounding close to 50.

Most of the attacks, including Wednesday's, were related to extortion activities but suspected Islamic mili-

tants were blamed for an attack on a bus in June that killed 10 people.

Caro said people convicted of cracking bomb jokes face a 5-year jail term and fine of 40,000 pesos (\$880). The offence is a non-bailable crime.

The Philippines already strictly enforces the bomb joke law in airports, arresting foreign tourists and local movie stars after their ill-advised quips caused flight delays and even cancellations.

Tiger feared on the loose

BORDEAUX, France (Reuters) — Police in southwestern France are searching for a big cat, possibly a young tiger, that has been spotted prowling in a village near the city of Bordeaux, the village's mayor said Thursday.

Officials from the National Hunting Office have also laid traps for the animal after a woman and her daughter saw it repeatedly in their garden.

"At first they didn't believe it, but the third time the animal was 10 meters (yards) away from them," Pierre Soubabere, mayor of Saint-Louis-de-Montferrand, told Reuters.

Another resident has seen the cat roaming the countryside, and its tracks suggest it is a young tiger, though it could be a jaguar or a leopard.

Soubabere said no such animal had been reported missing in the area, not even by circuses that spend part of the year in a neighboring town.

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to Saturday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Describe the vehicle

Aw-sof il say-yah-reh