

Serving Task Force Marne



Above: Video footage of insurgents firing rockets aimed at Coalition Forces. The insurgent-produced videotape was found by Soldiers during a raid. Footage also shows insurgents setting up and firing a rocket that landed near FOB Hammer Aug. 5. On July 11, there were 12 rockets fired at FOB Hammer, killing one Soldier and wounding 15 others. Below right: More ordnance insurgents were preparing to fire at U.S. forces.

3rd HBCT kills top insurgent

SGT. NATALIE ROSTEK 3RD HBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FOB HAMMER —A 500-pound bomb and guided artillery shells, courtesy of the 3rd Brigade Heavy Brigade Combat Team and the U.S. Air Force, ended future threats from one of the top insurgents in the Salman Pak area Wednesday evening.

The initial strike killed 10 insurgents, destroyed a house, and caused secondary explosions. According Maj. Wolf Biggerstaff, intelligence officer for 3rd HBCT, the primary target was a known weapons smuggler directly involved in supplying arms and munitions to Sunni extremists. He is also known to have attacked American troops during an operation in June.

After two F-16 fighters destroyed the insurgent's house, Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regi-

See HVT, Page 2





HVT: 3rd HBCT kills top insurgent

From Page 1

ment, fired two 155mm Excalibur GPS-guided shells toward the target, killing seven.

"The 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, and the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, did a phenomenal job tracking (the insurgent) for the past two months," said Maj. David Fivecoat, of Delaware, Ohio, operations officer for 3rd HBCT. "Everything lined up last night, and we were able to eliminate this serious threat to the security of the Mada'in Qada."

In total, 16 insurgents were killed in the attack in addition to the primary target.

The 1-10 FA and the 1-15th Inf. Regt. are assigned to 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Ga. The 3rd HBCT has been deployed to Iraq since March 2007.



This snapshot was taken from the captured insurgent-produced video. It shows 46 rocket launchers all aimed at American Soldiers occupying FOB Hammer.

THE Dog Face Daily

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TASK FORCE

Task Force Marne Public Affairs Staff

TF Marne PAO – Lt. Col. Randy Martin TF Marne Deputy PAO – Maj. Alayne Conway

TF Marne PA NCOIC – Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs

TF Marne PA Ops – Sgt. 1st Class Craig Zentkovich

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor – Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs Editor/Design – Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Contributing Units

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division 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

The Dog Face Daily August 9, 2007 • Page 3 August 9, 2007 • Page 3 Al-Qaeda emir killed in air assault

SGT. CHRIS MCCANN

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

SADR AL-YUSUFIYAH— An air assault and a fortuitous chain of events on the western bank of the Euphrates in Owesat Village, Iraq, Aug. 4 resulted in the shooting of a major al-Qaeda emir by a sergeant reacting from his training.

Sgt. Joshua Cox, of Kerrville, Texas, a team leader with 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., was near a reedline after midnight. A man came out of the weeds with an AK-47 and charged at Cox.

After shouting two verbal warnings with no response, Cox shot him.

It was only later that he learned the man was Ahmed Taha Awad al Janabi, the brigade's top target and one of Multi-National Division – Center's top 15.

Company A, 2-14th Inf. Regt., arrived near a cluster of houses just after midnight. Almost immediately, they came under small arms fire from seven fleeing terrorists.

A Soldier was shot in the thigh, and a medical evacuation helicopter was called in to evacuate him.

As the helicopter came in to pick up the wounded Soldier, it too came under fire from the terrorists, who had not run far. Taha had stopped in the reeds.

"He shot at the medevac helicopter," said Lt. Col. John Valledor, commander, 2-14th Inf. Regt. and a native of Weehawken, N.J. "That was a fatal mistake."

The shots brought other Soldiers, including Cox, to the reedline, and when Taha climbed out of the reeds and ran toward him, rifle in hand, Cox reacted.

"He didn't respond to my warnings, so I shot him," Cox said. "I was scared, too – in the mission briefing we were told that they would probably have suicide vests, and when I shot him, he fell on me.

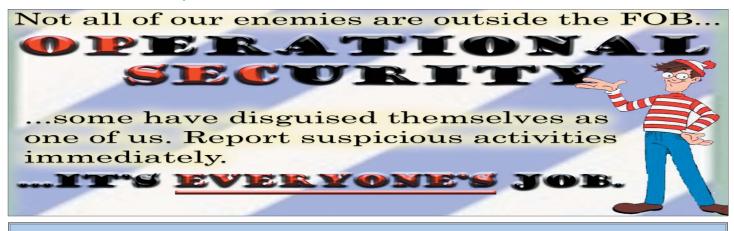
"I had to push him off, and I thought he was going to explode before he died. But he wasn't wearing a suicide vest, luckily."

The Soldiers continued the mission and got their wounded comrade to medical treatment.

"Last year, the Soldiers spent hours training to put two rounds center-mass in a target," Valledor said. "Not many ever have to do it in real life. But when Cox was presented with that need, he acted instinctively and put his rounds center mass. He took out the brigade's No. 1 target."

Taha was on the brigade's list for his significant role in the planning of the April 2005 capture and killing of two Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Ky. He is also suspected to have had a role in the May attack that left several Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, dead and two others missing.

"I'm very proud of the actions of Cox and his brothers-in-arms in Company A," Valledor said. "He did it right."



Safety Thought of the Day NVG Limitations

Tips for Soldiers

• Reduced field of view (FOV) and scanning Looking through NVGs is a lot like peering down a tunnel. Your normal FOV is almost 190 degrees, but with NVGs your FOV is only 40 degrees.

 Reduced visual acuity (sharpness) Normal vision is 20/20, but your vision through NVGs is only about 20/25 to 20/40 in optimal conditions.

• Reduced depth and distance perception Normally you use both eyes (binocular vision) to estimate an object's distance and depth. With NVGs you're essentially using only one eye (monocular vision), which poses real problems. Dark adaptation

Adaptation time depends on how long you've been wearing the NVDs. Most people achieve about

75 percent dark adaptation within 30 seconds. This fact is especially important to remember if you're using NVDs as binoculars (lifting them to your eyes and then lowering them).



Gender difference in mice; map-reading skills

Female mice just a sniff away from male sex drive

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Female mice became sexually voracious and tried to mate like males after scientists disabled a small sensory organ, casting fresh light on how gender-specific behavior develops in animals.

The difference seems to lie in how male and female mice use the vomeronasal organ to process pheromones, said Catherine Dulac, the Harvard biologist who led the research published in the journal Nature Sunday.

Pheromones are chemical signals that many animals, including humans, use to communicate socially and sexually.

The vomeronasal organ, found in the noses of some animals but not in people or higher primates, is a key processing center for pheromones.

Scientists had long attributed aggressive male mating tactics to a testosterone-induced hard-wiring of male brains.

"Here you have females that never had male hormones but have perfectly male behavior," Dulac said in a telephone interview.

In female mice, pheromones normally suppress male sex behaviors and activate female ones, the research suggests.

"This comes as a surprise to think that the neural circuitry for male behavior had been sitting in the female brain all this time," said Mark Breedlove, a neuroscientist at Michigan State "You feel sorry for the males. You imagine they're confused."

> Mark Breedlove neuroscientist

University not involved in the study.

The researchers said they bred female mice without a gene critical to the vomeronasal organ's function. They also sliced the organ from otherwise normal adult females.

In both cases, the females pursued cage mates aggressively, sniffing their rears and mounting them. They turned to other male mating behaviors, such as pelvic thrusts, while eschewing typically female roles like nesting and nursing.

"You feel sorry for the males. You imagine they're confused," Breedlove said in a telephone interview.

The females did not limit themselves to males, with some trying to mate with other females.

It turns out female mice need the vomeronasal organ to tell the sexes apart, just as males have in earlier studies, the researchers said.

The role of pheromones in humans is more controversial.

"We're not so olfactory or pheromonal as mice or rats," Breedlove said.

"On the other hand, it does make you wonder if humans also contain both sets of neural circuitry in the brain, and if something other than odors is responsible for determining which set we'll use as we grow up."

Brits can't read maps

LONDON (Reuters) — As many as 11 million British motorists are unable to read a basic road map, according to a survey released Monday.

The poll revealed over three quarters of British drivers were unable to identify the motorway map symbol, while only one percent of motorists would pass the Cub Scout Map Reader badge test.

"It's pretty embarrassing the majority of Cub Scouts have better mapreading skills than the majority of the adult population," said Colin Batabyal, head of underwriting and business development at eSure, which carried out the survey.

Sixteen percent of British drivers have become so heavily reliant on satellite navigation systems that they have given up keeping a map in their car.

"It's time for motorists to take a refresher in map-reading skills," said Scott Sinclair of national mapping agency Ordnance Survey. "Technology is great but batteries won't run out on a paper map. No serious hill walker would rely totally on GPS in case the power goes or the signal is lost, so it should be the same for the motorist."

The survey — based on a poll of 1,000 UK drivers — estimated Britons' poor map-reading skills resulted in 36 billion wasted miles being driven each year.

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