

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Paratroopers capture 6 militants

1ST LT. SEAN BREEN
4TH BCT (ABN.), 25TH INF. DIV.

ISKANDARIYAH — Coalition Paratroopers captured six Jaysh al-Mahdi militants during a cordon and search operation in Tahrir, Aug. 5.

After receiving the call to begin their assault, the lead fire team, led by Sgt. Joe George from Pittsburgh, Pa., moved toward their target, a two-story house owned by a known militia cell leader.

As the Paratroopers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 501st Airborne, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, approached the door, they prepared themselves for what

“The leader we were looking for was hiding under the sink when I found him.”

— Pfc. David Gerhart
Co. C, 1-501st Abn.

might lie on the other side.

Simultaneously, another mounted squad of Paratroopers were moving to set an outer cordon to prevent any militiamen from fleeing the area.

On cue, George's fire team kicked the door of the house, but it did not budge. George saw a man on the roof and ordered him to freeze, but the man turned and fled.

George then decided to breach the door with a shotgun.

The team rushed into the house, clearing the bottom floor in seconds as they quickly moved up the narrow stairway to the rooftop.

As they approached the top of the stairs, they noticed three men jumping over a low brick wall onto an adjacent rooftop.

See CAPTURE, Page 3

Soldiers, environment love new WAG bag

SGT. CHRIS McCANN
2ND BCT, 10TH MTN. DIV. (LI)

CAMP STRIKER — It happens. It hits fans. Bears do it in the woods. But where can a Soldier do it when there are no portable toilets?

Enter the WAG bag.

The official name is the “Waste Aggregation and Gelling” bag, and it was developed by three residents of Bozeman, Mont., in 1999. Bill and Pam Phillips, and Mike Groff were motivated by a desire to reduce human impact in wilderness areas, and they developed the bags — and the “Pooh Powder” that fills them — to be functional and easily biodegradable.

The military began issuing WAG bags to Soldiers in Iraq due to the lack of flush

toilets in most of the country. Soldiers have long built outhouse-style toilets, and movies about the Vietnam War made the burning of waste in 55-gallon drums famous. Outhouses are still built, but with the new bags, there is no need for troops to burn the waste.

Each bag comes in a plastic packet that contains the funnel-shaped WAG bag itself, an opaque plastic bag for disposal, toilet paper, and a hand sanitizing wipe. Inside the WAG bag is a quantity of Pooh Powder.

When waste comes in contact with it, the powder gels the liquid waste, encapsulates the solid waste, neutralizes odors and begins the decay

See WAG, Page 3



Courtesy photo

1st Lt. Graham Morris (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Wallace, of Company B, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, display the joy that can only come from using a WAG bag.

CAPTURE: Soldiers detain 6 during night cordon and search

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George radioed back to the Paratroopers on the perimeter to let them know suspects were fleeing from the house.

"I heard the call come over the radio that we had multiple personnel fleeing to the South as we approached the objective from the north. That's when my adrenaline really got pumping," said Staff Sgt. Frank Cole, a squad leader from Kennebunk, Maine.

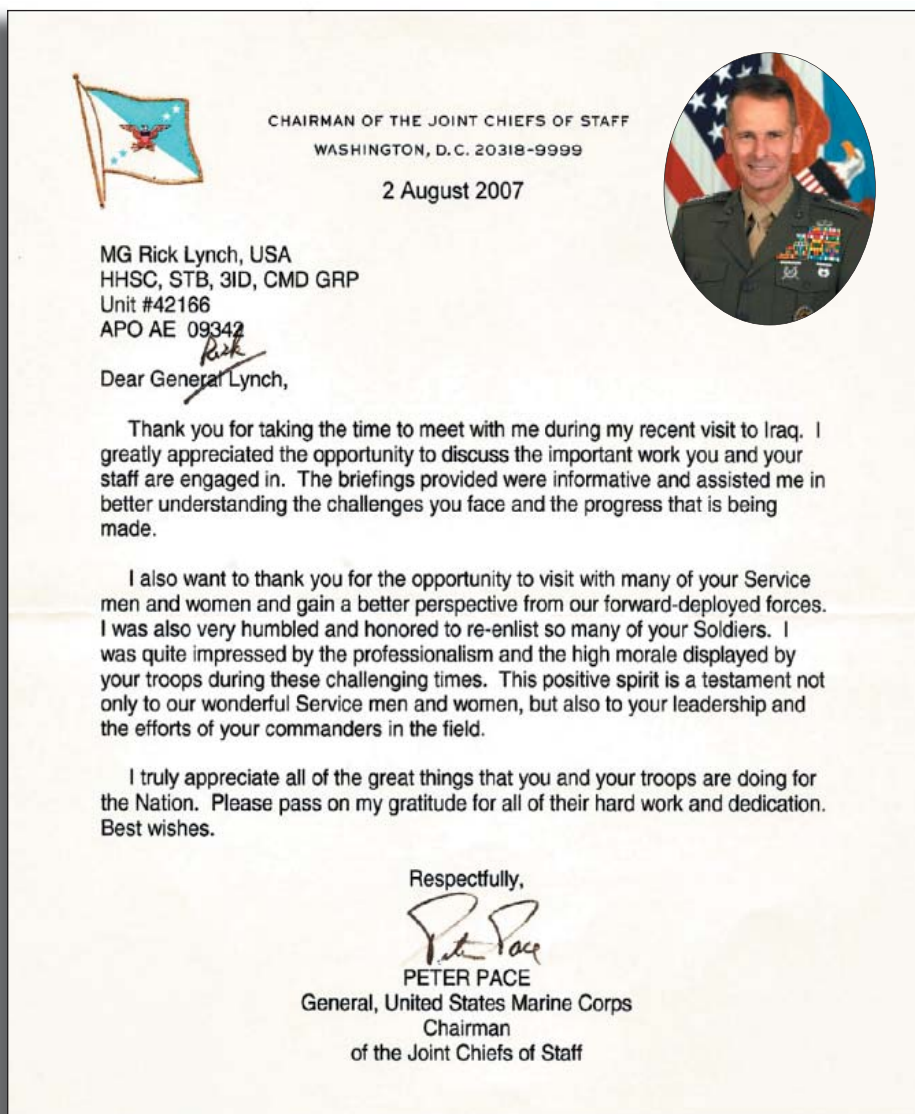
While George was on the radio informing the rest of the platoon, Pvt. Ralph Dupres, a grenadier from Pittsburgh, Pa., leapt over the three-foot-high wall and jumped to the adjacent rooftop as the rest of the fire team began to chase the fleeing suspects.

"When I reached the ground level we started searching the rooms, I found the three guys we were chasing in the kitchen and two more men in the living room," said Pfc. David Gerhart, a Co. C Paratrooper. "The leader we were looking for was actually hiding under the sink when I found him."

By this time the Paratroopers on cordon duty had made it to the other end of the street, attempting to keep the fleeing militants from escaping. As the squad turned the corner at the end of the street, they started taking machine-gun fire.

"We heard some shots, so we got down behind the wall and scanned the area, hoping to see some muzzle flashes," said Sgt. Xavier Ramirez, a fire team leader from Merced, Calif.

Moments later, Coalition attack helicopters were searching for any sign of the enemy.



"It was great to know the helicopters were overhead. The bad guys usually don't shoot at us when (the helicopters) are around," said Spc. Bruce Brown, a machine gunner from Tuscaloosa, Ala.

"After climbing over the wall of the courtyard of our objective, we were able to secure the house and the cell leader

successfully without incident," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Clark, a platoon sergeant from Richland Center, Wis.

After the houses and surrounding areas were thoroughly searched and the six militants were secured, the Paratroopers returned to Forward Operating Base Iskandariyah.

THE Dog Face Daily

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WAG: New human waste disposal bag keeping Soldiers so fresh, clean

From Page 1

process. Pooh Powder is a mix of non-toxic, polymer-based absorbent similar to that in disposable diapers, an organic decay catalyst and the odor neutralizer, custom-engineered for the purpose by Phillips Environmental Products.

The resealable disposal bag was included to allow backpackers to carry their waste out with them or put it in a landfill, and it reduces the spread of bacteria through containment of human waste pathogens.

The best part is that Soldiers like the WAG bags — as much as anyone can like something other than a real flush toilet.

“Burning the drums was pretty nasty,” said Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey Moore, a native of Columbus, Ohio, and counter-improvised explosive device targeting officer for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y. “We had to pour kerosene into it, and stir it with an aluminum pole from a camo net. It’s much better to use the WAG bags. I’d even like to get some when I go home, for hunting.”

Sgt. 1st Class Jesus Rada, a Los Angeles native and 2nd BCT engineer section NCO, recalled his time in Iraq in 2003 when burning the waste was still the preferred method of disposal.

“You had to wear gloves and your chemical protective mask and check the direction of the wind to avoid the smoke

and the smell. It was brutally hot, too — whoever was stirring would have to step back for a while every few minutes. WAG bags make it easier and cleaner, and the individual takes care of it himself, so no one else has to.”

2nd BCT sends out about 250 boxes of the coveted bags every month, depending on mission needs, said Capt. John Brooks, a native of Mobile, Ala., and general supplies officer for 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd BCT.

The 210th BSB moves the bags, along with all other supplies, on logistics patrols to the far-flung battle positions and forward operating bases around the 2nd BCT’s area of operations.

Soldiers cite the WAG bag’s ease of use, the fact that flies are not attracted to it, and the lack of odor as major points.

The 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, took over an abandoned Russian thermal power plant on the banks of the Euphrates River in October. At first, they were using barrels as latrines, but they switched to the bags as soon as they became available.

Spc. Scott Swain, a native of Vacaville, Calif., a supply specialist with the battalion, said he was very happy about the change to WAG bags.

“They’re more sanitary and easier — they’re just a lot better,” Swain said.

For the foreseeable future, WAG bags will keep Soldiers going. So to speak.

“Burning the drums was pretty nasty ... It’s much better to use the WAG bags.”

— Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey Moore
2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI)

Safety Thought of the Day Ground Guide Tips

- Ensure drivers understand they must immediately stop if they lose sight of the ground guide or don’t understand a signal.
- Make sure everyone understands the basic signals to control vehicle drivers (don’t forget about flashlight signals) from Field Manual 21-60, Visual Signs.
- Position front ground guides to the left front of vehicles. Never allow a ground guide to walk directly in the vehicle’s path. Ground guides and drivers must understand this!
- When using two ground guides, they must maintain visual contact with each other. The front ground guide must stop the vehicle if he or she loses sight of the rear ground guide.
- Ensure the ground guide, not the vehicle commander, is in charge of the vehicle. Whenever the vehicle is under the control of a ground guide, the only command the vehicle commander should issue to the driver is “stop.”



Headline Highlights

Fat Italians; snakes almost on plane; Bali dry

Weight loss pays for Italians

MILAN (Reuters) — Overweight residents of an Italian town will be paid to lose weight, the mayor said on Monday.

Men living in the northwestern Italian town of Varallo will receive 50 euros (\$70) for losing 4 kg (9 pounds) in a month, Mayor Gianluca Buonanno said. Women will get the same amount for shedding 3 kg (7 pounds).

If they can keep the weight off for 5 months, they will get another 200 euros (\$280), he told Reuters.

"Lots of people are saying, 'I really need to lose some weight but it's really tough.' So I thought, why don't we go on a group diet?" said Buonanno, who said he was about 6 kg (13 pounds) overweight.

The town of 7,500 people started the campaign on Friday and some residents have already signed up, he said.

Around 35 percent of Italians are overweight or obese, according to European Union figures, with waistlines expanding as the country's healthy Mediterranean diet has given way to processed foods rich in fat, sugar and salt.

Crocs, cobras found in bags

CAIRO (Reuters) — A Saudi passenger tried to smuggle a large number of reptiles, including cobra snakes and infant Nile crocodiles, out of Egypt in his luggage, Egypt's official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported Sunday.

The discovery of the reptiles in the

passenger's bags triggered a brief panic among security personnel at the Cairo International Airport, witnesses said.

The 22-year-old passenger, identified only as Anas, said he needed the reptiles, which also included chameleons, for scientific research at his university in Saudi Arabia.

His collection will be handed over to Egypt's main zoo in Cairo.

Drunk halts cycle marathon

MOSCOW (Reuters) — A man cycling from Taiwan to Moscow made it as far as Western Siberia only to be knocked off his bicycle by a drunk driver, Russian media reported Monday.

The 37-year-old Taiwan resident, who was not named, was nearly two-thirds of the way through his roughly 7,000 km (4,350 mile) trip when he was hit by a car in the Novosibirsk region, Interfax news agency reported.

"The victim is currently in a satisfactory condition ... The drunk driver fled from the scene of the accident," the agency quoted a police statement as saying.

Alcohol shortage dampens spirits in Indonesia's Bali

JAKARTA (Reuters) — Hotels and bars on Indonesia's resort island of Bali have been hit by an alcohol shortage due to an import problem, officials said Monday.

The tourism industry is worried that the shortages could impact the number of foreign visitors, said Djinaldi Gosana, executive director of the Bali Hotel

Association.

Tourism in the predominantly Hindu island of Bali in mostly Muslim Indonesia is starting to recover after suicide bombers attacked the island in October 2005, killing 20 people. The attacks came after more than 200 died in nightclub bombings by Islamic militants in 2002.

A trade ministry official said the state-owned firm responsible for importing alcohol for hotels and restaurants had not applied for quotas, which must be renewed every six months. The official, who declined to be identified, did not elaborate.

Bali's Denpasar Post newspaper reported that the shortages followed the discovery of an alcohol smuggling ring using falsified duty stamps.

"Our members are complaining of a shortage of wines and spirits over the past two months. Apparently there's a reorganization at the customs department after the discovery of a smuggling ring," Gosana said, adding he was not clear if other parts of Indonesia were also affected.

He said some outlets on the resort island had been forced to close because of the shortage.

"It's an even bigger blow for hotels that offer all-inclusive packages. Their reputation is suffering," he said.

According to government data, tourist arrivals in Bali rose 34 percent to 781,059 in the first half of 2007 from a year ago.

The island will host a number of major international meetings this year, including a key U.N. conference on climate change in December.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Foreigners

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