

Serving Task Force Marne



Sqt. Ben Brody

With an AH-64 Apache attack helicopter watching from above, Capt. Eric Nylander, commander of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment, uses a laser to point out a suspected IED factory in Sayafiyah Aug. 15. After Co. B left the area, the Apache destroyed the building with Hellfire missiles.

# Marne Husky opens with surprise air assault

SGT. BEN BRODY MND-C PAO

BAGHDAD — Ask any general what he considers the most important advantage on the battlefield, and the answer will likely be the same: the element of surprise.

To the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade's way of thinking, nothing is more surprising than waking up to find five helicopters full of infantrymen landing on the lawn.

On a moonless night Aug. 15, the thunderous roar of two CH-47 Chinooks and three UH-60 Black Hawks from 3rd CAB broke the rural quiet of

Sayafiyah, 20 miles south of Baghdad, as they headed straight for a large Sunni insurgent compound.

The giant Chinooks landed in a maelstrom of dust and debris, and with a shout of "Go, go, go!" Soldiers from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment charged uphill toward the main building, where reconnaissance drones had identified 20 to 30 men sleeping on the roof just moments before.

In less than a minute, every man in the compound was in handcuffs, and the women and children were consolidated in the courtyard.

Suddenly the house was shaken to

its foundations as an AH-64 Apache attack helicopter fired two Hellfire missiles at a nearby cement truck that was being rigged with explosives.

With the aid of Rocky, a German shepherd trained to sniff out bombs, Soldiers fanned out across the complex of houses, searching for evidence of insurgent activity.

The raid was the opening salvo of Operation Marne Husky, an offensive designed to strike at insurgent havens in areas of the Tigris River valley that have not seen significant Coalition presence in the past year.

See HUSKY, Page 3 —



Courtesy photo

Medics from the Kalsu Troop Medical Clinic work to save the leg of an Iraqi policeman who was injured in an improvised explosive device attack.

## **Medics play big** role in joint fight

1st Sgt. Macey Shapiro 4th BCT (ABN.), 25th Inf. Div.

KALSU — Medics at the Troop Medical Clinic on Forward Operating Base Kalsu proved their worth under combat conditions with an especially intense week recently.

During late July and early August, the pace and intensity of work for the medics manning the clinic jumped to a level

See MEDICS, Page 3 -

## 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers:

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- A free pass to Corkan Family Skating
- · Rent a camper for three days, get additional two days free
- \$5 off daily campsite fee at Stewart and Hunter
- · Free boat ramp launch at Lotts Island
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- Bowl one game, get one free at Marne Lanes and Hunter Lanes
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- \$4 off 200-unit phone card
- \$1 off a haircut or \$5 off shampoo, style and set
- \$2 off oil, lube and filter changed or four-wheel tire balance and
- \$1 off any AAFES brand health care item
- \$10 off any exchange credit program purchase of \$100 or more
- \$10 off any two or three piece Army dress uniform
- \$10 off any Cherish Collection purchase of \$100 or more
- \$5 off any private label children's clothing
- \$10 off any exchange catalog order of \$100 or more
- Buy one, get one free Godfather's pizza with free delivery until 9 p.m. weekdavs
- One VIP Delivery Card buy five Godfather's pizzas, get the next one

See your brigade combat team or battalion rear-detachment representative for coupon books. A Soldier must sign for the coupons to receive them.

#### THE

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214th Fires Brigade

82nd Sustainment Brigade

720th Military Police Battalion

Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

## **HUSKY:** Troops conduct air assault

#### From Page 1

Because no units "owned" the area, a task force of infantrymen and aviators was assembled specifically for the operation.

"Having the infantry company assigned under us, with their intel-gathering capabilities and working dogs, makes the CAB more lethal and capable than ever before," said Lt. Col. Robert Wilson, 3rd CAB executive officer. "It gives us the opportunity to get into places the insurgents think we can't."

While artillery positions pounded suspected weapons caches in the area, shooting stars from the Perseid meteor shower lit up the sky. Every few minutes a Hellfire missile fired from an Apache streaked toward the earth.

The practice is called "terrain denial fires," used more for psychological effect than destruction of enemy targets. Artillery shells are fired into open fields or areas disturbed by recent digging, where weapons may be buried.

"The terrain denial fires let the enemy know that we're here, and that we're serious about what we do," said Maj. James Kanicki, 3rd CAB's operations officer. "With the air assault we showed that we know where they are, and that we're coming to get them."

Whether the infantry and aviators will continue to work as one after Marne Husky remains to be seen, but their first mission together got results. After swabbing the men's hands, five tested positive for TNT and other nitrate-based explosives. All five were detained for further questioning.

While searching the sprawling property, Soldiers came across a locked building with machining tools inside, often used in the manufacture of improvised explosive devices.



Sgt. Ben Brody

Spc. John Kahn tests a man's hands for explosive residue using X-Spray during an air assault Aug. 15. The man tested positive for TNT and was detained.

As an Apache watched from above, Co. B commander Capt. Eric Nylander marked the building with a bright laser pointer. The pilot acknowledged the target with an infrared laser of his own, and once the ground team was clear, leveled the building with two missiles and 50 rounds from a 30mm cannon.

With the detainees in tow and the remains of the truck bomb fading to embers, the team headed back to the field to await their ride home.

Although most had done this sort of mission many times before, it is always shocking how much wind, dust and heat awaits the trooper approaching a landing Chinook. A few Soldiers were blown over by the rotor blast, and righting themselves, ran for the lowered tailgate and a good night's sleep.

## **MEDICS:** Kalsu TMC proves essential to successful joint operations

#### From Page 2

they haven't seen in their previous 10 months.

In a week, multiple trauma injuries from the Iraqi army, Iraqi police, and U.S. Army Soldiers brought home the fact that the war in Iraq is truly a joint fight, and everyone is in it together.

The clinic's new interpreter saw his first traumatic injuries when police officers from Hillah were brought in to be treated.

"I have now seen what you do with my own eyes. Thank you," said "Martinez," the interpreter.

The week began with a call to the

Kalsu TMC. Iraqi army casualties were heading to FOB Kalsu and would be at the gate in minutes. One IA soldier was not breathing and unresponsive. The other two were not as seriously injured, but in need of care.

Upon arrival, the unresponsive soldier was administered CPR but died en route to the Combat Support Hospital. The other two casualties were treated and returned to their IA compound.

The next incident included several injuries to Paratroopers, including a medic from the Kalsu clinic. The Paratrooper sustained multiple contusions to her leg and shoulder when a 122mm rocket hit about five meters

from a bunker where she was sitting. The impact blew a piece of debris into her, knocking her off the bunker. As the injured Paratroopers were cleared from the impact site, seasoned medics, now coming into their 11th month in theater, proceeded to package them for movement to Kalsu.

The hectic week ended with two Iraqi police officers who had hit an IED. The more seriously injured officer had his leg severely damaged by the explosion. He arrived with a good tourniquet and was stabilized for transport. The second officer had his ear drums ruptured and a couple of small burns on his buttocks. He was treated and then sent home.

## **Safety Thought of the Day**

## **Ammunition Handling**

- Keep ammunition in its original container as long as possible. Repack items that have been opened and not used.
- Maintain awareness of the round's primer. Do not strike or allow anything else to strike the primer during ammunition handling operations.
- Do not stack objects on top of ammunition.
- Protect ammunition from dirt and sand, temperature extremes, moisture, grease, rough handling, or anything else that might cause it to deteriorate.
- Remind Soldiers to wear appropriate PPE when handling ammunition.

### **Headline Highlights**

## Maggot meat; MP3 in court; a boy named '@'

#### Men add maggots to meat

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) — Three young men in the northern Dutch town of Damwoude were charged with damaging property after adding maggots to supermarket meat that was later sold to a customer, police said Thursday.

The shopkeeper found 40 maggots after the customer complained, and identified the men, aged between 18 and 21, on a surveillance tape as they put the insect larvae into packaged meat

Only one package of the maggot-infested meat was sold, a police spokeswoman said.

The suspects told the police that they had played a prank with bait left over from fishing. The rest of the meat in the store was destroyed.

#### Hear ye, hear ye, MP3 ...

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's top lawyer decided on Thursday that no action would be taken against a Muslim woman accused of listening to an MP3 music player under her hijab while on jury duty.

The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was thrown off the jury considering a murder trial when one of her fellow jurors reported seeing headphone wires coming out of her headscarf.

Attorney General Baroness Patricia Scotland had "carefully" considered the

2

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case and decided not to press criminal charges, saying it would be too difficult to prove if the woman was guilty, a spokeswoman for her office said.

"(She) has concluded that there is insufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of proving beyond reasonable doubt any alleged contempt of court," the spokeswoman said.

The suspected incident had occurred during a trial in June at London's Blackfriars Court of a man accused of bludgeoning his wife to death.

The case was briefly halted while the woman, who could have been jailed if found guilty of contempt, was discharged from the jury and arrested.

The Crown Prosecution Service said there had been contempt cases where people had taken pictures using mobile phones in court, but it was believed to be the first of its kind involving a juror suspected of listening to music.

#### Couple try to name baby "@"

BEIJING (Reuters) — A Chinese couple tried to name their baby "@," claiming the character used in e-mail addresses echoed their love for the child, an official trying to whip the national language into line said Thursday.

The unusual name stands out especially in Chinese, which has no alphabet and instead uses tens of thousands of multi-stroke characters to represent words.

"The whole world uses it to write e-mail, and translated into Chinese it means 'love him'," the father explained, according to the deputy chief of the State Language Commission Li Yuming.

While "@" is familiar to Chinese e-mail users, they often use the English word "at" to sound it out -- which with a drawn out "T" sounds something like "ai ta," or "love him," to Mandarin speakers. Li told a news conference on the state of the language that the name was an extreme example of people's increasingly adventurous approach to Chinese, as commercialization and the Internet break down conventions.

Another couple tried to give their child a name that rendered into English sounds like "King Osrina."

Li did not say if officials accepted the "@" name. But earlier this year the government announced a ban on names using Arabic numerals, foreign languages and symbols that do not belong to Chinese minority languages.

Sixty million Chinese faced the problem that their names use ancient characters so obscure that computers cannot recognize them and even fluent speakers were left scratching their heads, said Li, according to a transcript of the briefing on the government Web site (www.gov.cn).

One of them was the former Premier Zhu Rongji, whose name had a rare "rong" character that gave newspaper editors headaches.

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

					$\overline{}$			_
6	5	9	2	4	8	3	1	7
3	4	7	5	1	6	8	2	9
1	2	8	3	9	7	6	4	5
7	8	3	9	2	4	1	5	6
4	9	2	1	6	5	7	3	8
5	6	1	8	7	3	2	9	4
2	1	5	7	8	9	4	6	3
8	3	6	4	5	1	9	7	2
9	7	4	6	3	2	5	8	1

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

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## ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

**Prisoners** 

soo-jeh-nah