

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne



Photos by Sgt. Marcus Butler

Lt. Col. Robert Balcavage talks with members of the Concerned Citizens Program during Operation Gecko. At right, Paratroopers from 1-501st Abn. take cover after being dropped off by a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter near Jurf as Sakhr Aug. 21 as part of the same operation.

Gecko paves way for change

SGT. MARCUS BUTLER
4TH BCT (ABN.), 25TH INF. DIV.

ISKANDARIYAH — The people of Jurf as Sakhr have been living in a nightmare of sectarian violence being waged between al-Qaeda fighters and Jaysh al-Mahdi militants for more than a year.

With help from concerned citizens, who are fed up with the violence, and Paratroopers from 1st Battalion, 501st Airborne, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, the

reign of terror and oppression is ending. Ongoing operations are paving the way to safety, security and a better way of life.

The area of Jurf as Sakhr, a small agricultural community nestled among the Euphrates River, date palm groves and farmland, has been the site of more than 400 attacks against citizens and security forces in the region. Attacks include ambushes, machine-gun fire, car and truck bombs as well as the mil-

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Celebrating Women's Rights



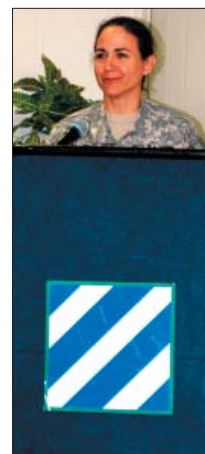
Photos by Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Gospel Praise Dancers (from left) Sgt. Nefertiti Williams, Spc. Rickita Hightower, Staff Sgt. Latovia Wright and Spc. Wendy Mayfield, all from Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, perform during the Women's Equality Day observance Aug. 26 at the Marne dining facility on Camp Victory.

Sgt. Zettion Branham, STB, 3rd Inf. Div., reads a poem she wrote about women's equality.



Spc. Amie McClintic, Maj. Colleen Benzinger and Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs, all from STB, 3rd Inf. Div., act in a skit about women's suffrage, past and present.



Col. Tricia Anslow, 875th Engineer Battalion commander, was the guest speaker at the event.

THE Dog Face Daily

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720th Military Police Battalion
Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

GECKO: Operation helps search, secure Jurf as Sakhr area

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itant's weapon of choice, roadside bombs.

With no significant security presence since October 2006, Shia militias and Sunni insurgents gained a strong hold over the people and land in and around Jurf as Sakhr.

When concerned citizens began standing up in the area, they asked for the help of local security forces to drive out the militants and take back their homes and land.

Operation Gecko was the answer to the citizens' call for help. The operation began systematically cleaning up the area, removing deadly roadside bombs and arresting the terrorists and militiamen responsible for the violence and chaos that had blanketed the city.

"This operation was conducted because the people in the area were tired of living in fear of Al Qaeda and Jaysh al-Mahdi," said Capt. Charles Canon, of Anchorage, Alaska, commander, Company B. "We started meeting with the local sheiks of the area and they wanted to be a part of the concerned citizens program and help clear the area of the militants."

Operation Gecko was broken down into three phases focusing on clearing a section of Jurf as Sakhr, and encompassed over 20 square kilometers of land to be searched and secured.

The concerned citizens helped the Iraqi army and Paratroopers move along the roads and farmland in the Euphrates River valley searching for IED threats.

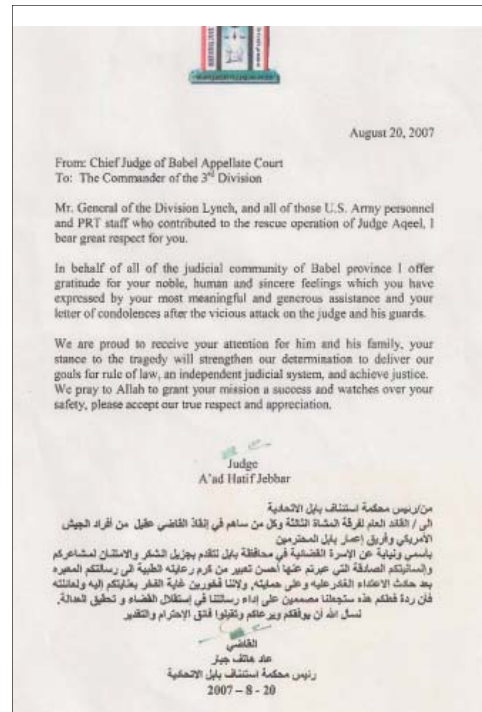
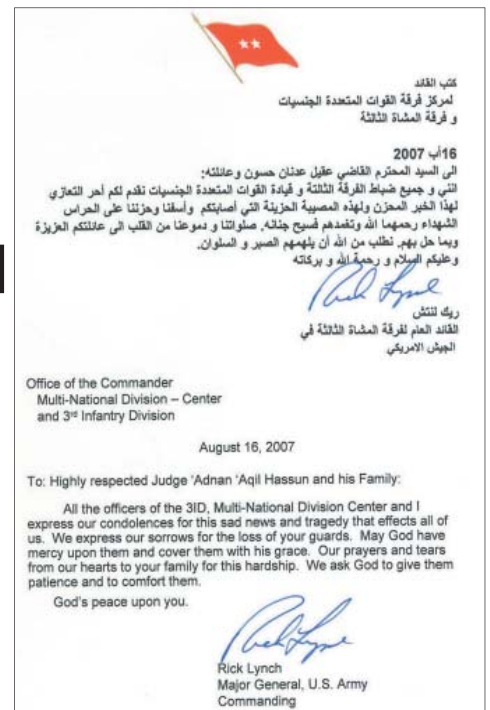
During the operation, the Concerned Citizens Program in Jurf as Sakhr has employed nearly 200 people and has 10 checkpoints manned by local residents.

The Iraqi Security Forces and concerned citizens handed out some 125,000 leaflets encouraging residents to help the Concerned Citizens Program and ISF keep peace. They also broadcasted information on what was happening in their neighborhoods while other security teams assessed the road conditions so local contractors could be hired to repair and reconstruct areas damaged during a year of sectarian violence.

While the operation is still under way, Canon said the first phase was a huge success. The concerned citizens are helping security forces find and destroy roadside bombs and other weapons. They are pointing out safe houses and pointing out terrorists and militiamen.

"It was good to see the citizens out helping protect their neighborhood," Canon said. "They know that we cannot be here forever so they realized it is time to cooperate."

TF Marne takes wounded Iraqi official under its wing



Judge Aqeel Adnan Hassan was injured Aug. 16 when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device struck his home in Hillah. Within 15 minutes of the attack, Judge Aqeel, a judge with the Central Criminal Court in Babil province, was evacuated from the scene by ambulance and transported to the 28th Combat Support Hospital. He has continued treatment there under the care of Coalition Forces. The letter to the left was written to thank Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, Task Force Marne commander, and Coalition Forces for their assistance in caring for Judge Aqeel.

Safety Thought of the Day

LSA Safety

- Fire prevention (Tents/Trailers)
 - Smoking or open flame (50 feet away)
 - No electrical system modifications
 - KBR work order only
 - Self splicing not authorized
- Vehicles and pedestrians
 - Vehicles – 5 MPH (critical at night)
 - Pedestrians/Runners
 - Walk/run on side of road
 - Walk/run facing traffic
 - Use light at night and reflective belt when in PTs

Headline Highlights

'Barbie' lawsuit; B-52 for sale?; hidden funds

Mattel sues site over 'Barbie'

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Mattel Inc. sued a small company on Tuesday for using the toymaker's famed "Barbie" trademark as part of the name for an adult-content Web site it owned.

The lawsuit, filed in Manhattan federal court, said the Web site www.chinabarbie.com had used the Barbie trademark to capture the positive image Mattel had created through its "Barbie" products.

The suit, which seeks unspecified damages, said the company, Global China Networks LLC, was based in Florida with a postal address in New York and had sold memberships to the site to customers around the world.

Mattel co-founder Ruth Handler in 1959 created the Barbie doll after noticing her daughter preferred playing with paper cut-outs of adult female fashion dolls, the lawsuit said.

American girls aged between 3 and 11 own an average of eight Barbie dolls each, the lawsuit said.

Shoplifter nabbed trying to exchange stolen shoes

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — Israeli police arrested a woman who stole a pair of Crocs shoes when she returned to the store hours later to exchange them because they did not fit her son, a police spokesman said Friday.

"The store clerk identified her from security camera footage and called us," said Amos Shimoni, police spokesman

in the northern town of Safed.

"Instead of exchanging the shoes for another pair, she exchanged them for a criminal record."

I'd like to buy your B-52

MOSCOW (Reuters) — A wealthy Russian tried to buy a U.S. B-52 bomber from a group of shocked American pilots at an airshow near Moscow, a Russian newspaper reported Friday.

The unidentified Russian, wearing sunglasses and surrounded by bodyguards, approached the U.S. delegation and asked to buy the bomber, the *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspaper said.

An astounded member of the U.S. delegation said the bomber was not for sale but that it would cost at least \$500 million if it were to be sold on the spot.

"That is no problem. It is such a cool machine," the Russian was quoted as saying by the newspaper, which said its reporter overheard the conversation. The bomber was not sold.

Russia's new rich, who built fantastic fortunes trading commodities and contacts after the fall of the Soviet Union, have made a name for themselves as ostentatious purchasers of everything from British football clubs to Faberge eggs.

Housewife hid \$3 million in foreign exchange gains

TOKYO (Reuters) — A financially savvy Tokyo housewife who made 400 million yen (\$3.44 million) trading in

foreign exchange markets was fined Friday for evading tax, a court official said.

Yukiko Ikebe, 60, got a suspended jail sentence and was fined 34 million yen after she used relatives' names to make her gains look smaller and avoid paying tax, public broadcaster NHK said.

"She felt it was unfair to have to pay tax on her gains, when she made losses some years," NHK quoted the judge as saying. "She spent the money on kimonos and jewelry."

Forex trading has become more popular in recent years in Japan, where low interest rates have led retail investors to seek new sources of profit.

Man leaves dead mother in armchair for two years

BERLIN (Reuters) — A German left his dead mother seated in her favorite armchair at their shared home for two years because he could not face organizing a funeral, police in the southern town of Fuerstenfeldbruck said Friday.

The woman died of natural causes in the chair in July 2005, a police spokesman said. A doctor called to the scene at the time gave the son a death certificate but he did not register the death.

Neighbors recently alerted police about the corpse. The man told police he could not bear to move his mother and said he never again entered the room where she was seated. Police have started an investigation for violating German burial law.

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to
Saturday's
puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Food

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