

# THE Dog Face Daily

Volume 1, Issue 131

August 30, 2007

*Serving Task Force Marne*

## Black Hawk crews transport VIPs in style

**SGT. BEN BRODY**

3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

BAGHDAD – When Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander, 3rd Infantry Division, wants to go somewhere in a hurry, his ride had better not be late.

Pilots and crew chiefs from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, are responsible for that mission – ferrying the Task Force Marne command group around the battlefield.

“We’re there within 30 seconds of the scheduled time, not too early or too late,” said 1st Lt. T.J. Menn, Co. A executive officer. “Our philosophy is to be in the right place at the right time, talking to the right people on the right frequency – executing the mission.”

The company of about 50 Soldiers is a tight-knit group, evidenced by the well-used grill pit and social area right outside Co. A’s headquarters.

“We’re like a family,” said Menn, who is from

Carthage, Ill. “A lot of us went to Army schools together, and have done multiple deployments together. One of the pilots here was the best man at my wedding.”

The casual, friendly demeanor of the team’s members belies the fact that the crew works at an extremely high tempo.

Each of Co. A’s Black Hawks spends an average of 74 hours in the air each month, while the next busiest com-

pany in the 3rd CAB averages 51 hours per helicopter.

“They keep us busy,” said Spc. Matthew West, a crew chief with Co. A. “Just about 100 percent of the fleet flies every day.”


West, who is on his third tour in Iraq, said that in his six years with 2-3 Avn. Regt., said he has flown with the sergeant major of the Army, the president of Iraq, several senators and many general officers.

“You have to keep the aircraft cleaner than you might normally, and definitely make sure you’re on time,” the Vicksburg, Miss., native said of his duties.

The unit is unique in that its wartime duties closely mirror its peacetime function, Menn said.

“In garrison we fly the command group around Fort Stewart and Hunter (Army Airfield) all the time,” he said.

Co. A’s commander, Capt. Amanda Current, summed up the unit’s mission, “We provide the command group the flexibility to move about a dynamic battlespace in real-time.”



A Black Hawk crew from Co. A, 2-3 Avn. Regt. gets ready for a VIP escort mission at Baghdad International Airport Aug. 27.



Courtesy photos

A local citizen near Niam Mashawn, Iraq, digs up a cache of 5-gallon jugs of nitric acid after asking Soldiers of the 1-89th Cav. Regt., to help him remove it Aug. 28. Soldiers helped him dig up 411 jugs of nitric acid, a common ingredient in homemade explosives.

## Concerned citizen leads Soldiers to nitric acid cache

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

NIAM MASHAWN — Coalition Forces, acting on a tip from a local concerned citizen, discovered a large cache of nitric acid buried in drums near the town of Niam Mashawn, Aug. 28.

Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), out of Fort Drum, N.Y., received a tip that there was a large quantity of nitric acid near a checkpoint on Route Tampa, a major Iraqi highway. The cache site is located



Soldiers from 1-89th Cav. Regt. stand behind a cache of 5-gallon jugs of nitric acid they found after a local man near Niam Mashawn reported the cache and asked for help in removing it.

about 15 kilometers west of Baghdad International Airport.

The man who reported the cache helped the Soldiers dig up 411 plastic jugs. Nitric acid is often used in making fertilizer and homemade explosives, commonly found in improvised explosive devices.

The containers of acid were collected and removed to a secure location.

### THE Dog Face Daily

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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



# 1-30 Infantry medics hold free health clinic

**SGT. KEVIN STABINSKY**  
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

ARAB JABOUR — Task Force Marne medics and Soldiers setup a hasty medical capabilities exam site designed to assist the local population and assess their community's critical medical needs.

During the set-up a message played on a loudspeaker giving instructions to the surrounding communities on what was happening and how to safely approach the exam site.

Between 8:30 a.m. and noon medics from Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, examined 49 local residents and distributed different types of medicine.

In addition to providing medical attention to residents in need, other support Soldiers distributed school supplies to

*"The MEDCAP was a major success and greatly assisted in providing aid to the local population."*

— 2nd Lt. Calvin Grubbs  
Co. A, 1-30th Inf. Regt.

the families.

Soldiers also talked with residents about current problems and activities in their area.

"Overall the MEDCAP was a major success and greatly assisted in providing aid to the local population," said 2nd Lt. Calvin Grubbs, of Columbia, S.C., Company A, 1-30 Inf. Regt. "It created bridges of trust between the Coalition Forces and the community."



**WHO:** MND-C Equal Opportunity Office

**WHAT:** *Hispanic Heritage Observance*

**WHEN:** Oct. 7, 3-4 p.m.

**WHERE:** Marne Dining Facility, VIP Room

**WHY:** To solicit support for the upcoming Observance. The MND-C Equal Opportunity Office is looking for VOLUNTEERS who would like to participate in this event and share their talents.

## Attention!



**Next IPR:** Sep. 1

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**\*\*EO Office, Bldg 51, Trailer #2, next to IG**

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## Safety Thought of the Day

### PPE Success Story

#### Summary:

- Soldier was on the roof of a battle position when he was shot.
- The round cut through his throat protector and was deflected into his arm.

#### Lessons Learned:

- Even though the equipment is uncomfortable, it will save your life.
- Wear all the proper PPE for each mission/task.



## Headline Highlights

# Phony professor; dog recovery; miners' diet

## 'Professor' paid for 15 years

PARIS (Reuters) — A French tax official cheated the government out of 600,000 euros (\$820,000) by creating a phantom identity as a university professor and claiming a salary for some 15 years, the government said Monday.

Education Ministry officials uncovered the scam in June and began legal and disciplinary action immediately, Budget Minister Eric Woerth said in a statement.

He said he "desired action to be undertaken urgently to prevent a recurrence of an abuse of this kind."

## Snatched dog found in park

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) — An elite Mexican sniffer dog kidnapped five days ago was found abandoned in a Mexico City park on Monday and reunited with its police handlers.

Working on a tip, federal police found Rex IV — a highly trained Belgian Malinois sheepdog with a string of drug hauls to its name — tied to a tree in a park in the gritty Iztapalapa neighborhood, a Public Security Ministry spokesman said.

"When they realized the police were onto them, they abandoned him in a park," the spokesman told Reuters, adding that the dog's identity was confirmed by scanning an embedded electronic chip.

The dog, part of an elite drug squad, was snatched from Mexico City airport on August 22 while it was en route for an operation in the northern state of Sinaloa. The thieves left a black mon-

grel puppy in its travel cage.

Police only realized Rex IV was missing when the puppy turned up in Mazatlan airport, Sinaloa. They feared the stolen dog, which one official compared to an intelligence agent, could help smugglers find new ways to conceal drug stashes.

Rex IV was in good condition and back with his trainers, while two employees at the company in charge of transporting him and other police dogs have been arrested, the ministry spokesman said. Rex IV is part of an elite Special Canine Unit set up in 2001 to help hunt down the gangs that smuggle South American cocaine and other drugs to the United States.

President Felipe Calderon has sent thousands of police and soldiers to northern and western states in a new crackdown on the cartels whose turf wars kill dozens each week.

## Miners survive on coal, urine

BEIJING (Reuters) — Two Chinese brothers who tunnelled their way out of a coal mine collapse after being trapped for nearly six days survived by eating coal and drinking urine, a local newspaper reported Tuesday.

Brothers Meng Xianchen and Meng Xianyou became trapped while working at an illegal mine in Beijing's Fangshan District late Saturday, August 18, the latest in a series of disasters to strike the world's deadliest coal mining industry.

Two days later, rescue efforts were called off and relatives began burning "ghost money" at the entrance of the

mine for the dearly departed.

"At first there was no feeling, but then I was so hungry I couldn't crawl any more," Xianchen told the Beijing News. "I got so hungry, I ate a piece of coal, and I thought it quite fragrant."

"Actually, coal is bitter and unsmooth but you can chew up pieces the size of a finger. In the mine, we picked up two discarded water bottles, and drank our urine. You can only take small sips, and when you've finished, you just want to cry."

Both said they would not go back into mining. But their younger brother, Meng Xianjun, who has a decade of experience in the mines, cut in to the interview to add: "I'll still do it."

Chinese mine owners regularly flout safety regulations to meet insatiable demand for a fuel powering the country's booming economy.

A gas explosion in an Inner Mongolian mine that was operating illegally killed seven people Saturday, as officials began handing compensation to families of 181 miners trapped and presumed dead after a flood last week in eastern China.

But in a second miraculous rescue, four builders trapped more than a week ago inside a collapsed tunnel at a hydropower project in the southwestern province of Yunnan were pulled out alive early Tuesday, Xinhua news agency reported.

Rescuers in Yunnan's Yingjiang County dug an extra passage to reach the workers and used a ventilation pipe to carry food and drinking water to the four, who were being treated in a local hospital following their rescue.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

**Solution to yesterday's puzzle:**

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

## ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

When?

*esh weh-ket?*