

THE

Dog Face Daily

Volume 1, Issue 145

www.taskforcemarne.com

September 15, 2007

Serving Task Force Marne

Reaching out to those in need



Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Brian L. Boone

An Iraqi child waits for medical care from Soldiers in Yusafiyah Sept. 7. The Soldiers, who are attached to Troop B, 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), provided medical assistance, clothing and toys to more than 300 Iraqi citizens in an area that was once over taken by al-Qaeda operatives.

Policeman, politician, Paratrooper: all in a day's work

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

KALSU — Paratroopers walk the roads of Iraq focused on the mission at hand. No one falters; no one misses a beat.

Whether that mission involves providing security for their fellow Paratroopers and Iraqis alike; conducting operations, or just building a working relationship with local residents, everyone knows the job that has to be done.

Even with temperatures ranging

from 110 to 140 degrees, they continue to push forward and drive on with their mission always on the lookout for any threat. They never know what the next instant will bring, but they are ready to fill any role, from diplomat to detective to war fighter, often at the same time.

This is something Paratroopers from 3rd Battalion, 509th Airborne, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division have become accustomed to over the past 10 months.

"To be a Soldier you have to be a very smart individual and understand the

complexities that come along with that responsibility," said Lt. Col. Val Keaveny, commander of the "Geronimos," 3rd Battalion, 509th Airborne.

Because the Paratroopers' roles switch so frequently, it is their leaders' job to make sure they are where they need to be.

"Although they may be conducting sensitive sight exploitation on a cache site or something found inside of a structure, the leaders are able to iden-

See PARATROOPERS, Page 3 —

Soldier support doesn't go unappreciated

SGT. CHRIS McCANN

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

CAMP STRIKER — Deployments can be long and difficult, but Soldiers across Iraq and Afghanistan have seen an incredible outpouring of support from people all over the United States, in the form of cards and letters and in packages of snacks and comfort items.

For Soldiers in forward posts and battle positions especially, care packages have been a huge morale booster.

In any unit, when a Soldier gets a care package, other troops gather around to see what's inside. Soldiers always share — what they don't want, they will gladly give to someone who does want it.

So many organizations have generously supported troops that it would be impossible to name them all, but a few stand out.

"Bear Hugs from Mom" was started by Sara Dutton, the mother of a Soldier in 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y. The 4-31 Inf. Regt. "Polar Bears" inspired the program's name. Dutton and her family and friends make individual care packages for the Soldiers in Company C, 4-31.

"I joined the Adopt-a-Unit program, now the Adopt-a-Platoon program, after reading an article in the Fort Drum Blizzard," said Dutton, mother of Sgt. Thomas Dutton, a rifleman and a native of Wadsworth, Ill., who is serving his second tour in Iraq. "We were visiting my son at Fort Drum during Memorial Day weekend 2006 when I read about it. I e-mailed (former 2nd BCT commander) Mike Plummer and asked if I could adopt my son's platoon. I think he thought it was a little daunting



Courtesy photo

Pfc. Cecilia Morales, a medic with 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI), sorts packages for fellow Camp Striker Soldiers.

for an individual, but I convinced him I could do it."

The Adopt-a-Platoon program is usually joined by organizations such as churches, businesses and scouting groups, but Dutton took the bull by the horns and began contacting large corporations for donations. A friend of the Dutton family began passing a bucket at the bar he owns, she said, and she's even gotten friends and neighbors involved.

Another group which has given unwavering support is Anysoldier.com — which allows people in the United States to send care packages to any Soldier without compromising security or having to have a specific name or address.

From new socks and boots to magazines, cookies, sunscreen and lip balm, Soldiers across Iraq have felt the support of the American public.

Sherry McDonald, who has a daughter serving in the Army, sends packages not only to her daughter but to other Soldiers, including a platoon in the 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI).

"I have been taking care of the scout platoon in 4-31, which I really enjoy. I also have adopted the 514th Maintenance Company," said McDonald, who joined the program "because of a deep dedication to and admiration of everyone that is currently serving in Iraq."

In total, McDonald supports about 60 Soldiers, she said.

"I've sent 'my' platoons CDs, movies, T-shirts, snack items and other assorted goodies," she said. "It is my greatest pleasure to be what I consider an 'adoptive mother' for the Soldiers, and what I am doing means a great deal to me. Every day I think of everyone, and

See SUPPORT, Page 3

THE Dog Face Daily

The Dog Face Daily is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of *The Dog Face Daily* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 3rd Infantry Division. All editorial content of *The Dog Face Daily* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Task Force Marne Public Affairs Office.

TASK FORCE MARNE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

www.taskforcemarne.com

Commanding General - MAJ. GEN. RICK LYNCH

Command Sergeant Major - COMMAND SGT. MAJ. JESSE L. ANDREWS JR.

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, 3rd Infantry Division
214th Fires Brigade
82nd Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

PARATROOPERS: *Airborne Soldiers adapt to any mission, any time*

From Page 1

tify the next phase of the mission,” Keaveny said. “That next phase could be (talking to) a local Iraqi leader outside to build a relationship, mutual understanding or common interest. Then we also have guys on the roof, in the surrounding area, on a mounted weapons system or at a blocking position, and there are kinetics focused on how to stop any attack that may come. Having all of these things going on simultaneously and interchangeable in minutes within 50 meters of each other is pretty amazing.”

“Every mission we have been on has been well planned and executed,” said Sgt. 1st Class Shad Miller, a platoon sergeant in Company B, 3-509th Abn. Regt. “For example, the latest operation we conducted as part of Marne Avalanche was first to target a suspected insurgent location. Once that phase was completed, it was decided to do a little detective work and look for caches, which turned out to be very successful by finding multiple AK-47s, a heavy machine gun, seven rocket propelled grenades and a fully functional 23 mm anti-aircraft gun. In the midst of all the searching and clearing, we still stopped to talk with the local residents.”

To further explain the complexities involved with executing multiple missions simultaneously, the Geronimos spent 10 months of their 15-month tour far way from their brigade’s forward operating base, having to adapt yet again.

As stressful as it may have seemed, the Geronimos picked up and relocated without reservation.

“To be a Soldier you have to ... understand the complexities that come along with that responsibility.”

— Lt. Col. Val Keaveny,
3-509th Abn. commander

“The morale of the Geronimos is high. Our Paratroopers can see the results that they have made over the past 10 months and that is very rewarding,” Keaveny said. “The discipline remains high and the pride ... can be seen through junior enlisted Paratroopers who want to stay with the unit.”

Whatever the role the Geronimos are called on to play, their commander says they will always give 110 percent.

“The Paratroopers put their hearts and souls into the mission set before them, never losing focus of the task at hand,” Keaveny said.

“Every mission is going to be different,” Miller said. “Once one is done, we work out whatever rough areas we had and move on and prepare for the next mission.”

Perhaps one of the most stressful situations for both civilian and military is losing a close friend. It can cause one to re-evaluate the reason he serves. For the Geronimos, the answer is simple: drive on with the mission.

“No I don’t fear for my own life, no one really does,” Miller said. “We are to busy looking out for each other, focusing on the mission and trying to find the bad guys to be worried.”

With pressure that is compounded from being forward deployed for more than 150 days, having to execute multiple missions at once at any given time, the stress of war is one thing the Geronimos seem to have well under control.

“I am extremely honored to serve with these guys,” Keaveny said. “We all talk about the greatness of the American Soldier, but when you see it every day it just makes you proud to stand besides them.”

SUPPORT: *Stateside organizations send support in care packages*

From Page 2

am thankful for the opportunity to support them in any way I can.”

Members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT family readiness group also go out of their way to let Soldiers know that they are loved — even single Soldiers who don’t have family in the group.

For Christmas 2006, the FRG sent a stocking stuffed with holiday goodies to every Soldier in HHC. The group, headed by Tanya Potter, wife of Capt. Chip Potter, company commander, has

also created banners and other items to boost morale, turning group meetings into a chance to write, draw or fingerprint on a large sheet. The sheets are then sent to Camp Striker and hung outside the building where most HHC Soldiers work.

The FRG tries especially to remember their Soldiers over the holidays.

“Being away for the holidays is not easy on anyone, so for Christmas, the FRG made stockings for the single Soldiers, and at our holiday party we made a video with family members sending a message to their Soldier,” Potter said.

“For Valentine’s Day, we sent our Soldiers a small heart-shaped box of candy with a Valentine’s Day card.

“We just wanted to send some love to our Soldiers so they know they are always thought of. And now, we are preparing a wonderful welcome home for of all our Soldiers.”

From the earliest days of war, messages and notes of encouragement have kept Soldiers fighting, reminding them for whom they fight.

It is a tradition well-represented — and well-executed — during the war on terrorism.

Safety Thought of the Day Self Protection Adaptive Roller Kit

- Drivers must remain aware of surroundings and blind spots.
- Added width increases chance of contacting stationary or moving objects.
- Drivers must remain aware of increasing braking difference and steering limitations. Braking too quickly can cause vehicle to travel outside lane.
- All personnel must remain clear (at least 10 ft) of moving vehicle with rollers installed.
- Drivers must be fully trained in operating vehicle with rollers installed.
- No one should attempt to remove the Roller without attending the SPARK Operator Training.
- Operating speed is limited to 35 MPH or less.

Headline Highlights

Skulls on smokes; Neanderthals' oral hygiene

China to put skulls on cigs

BELJING (Reuters) — Chinese cigarette packs will have skulls, blackened teeth or diseased lungs printed on them in the latest effort to tackle smoking, but one expert said the images may actually attract younger people to take up the habit.

The images would have to take up at least 30 percent of the pack's surface area under rules that would come into force from January 2009, the Beijing Morning Post said, citing an official at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

It was part of a plan that would also see tobacco advertising banned in China by 2011, the report added.

Chinese are the world's most enthusiastic smokers, with a growing market of more than 300 million making it a magnet for cigarette companies and a focus of international health concern.

China has banned smoking on public transport, but it is still allowed in many public places such as restaurants, and it is not uncommon to see people smoking in hospitals.

The average age people take up smoking in some parts of the country had fallen to as low as just over 10, even as efforts are stepped up to curb the habit, the newspaper added.

And the new measures could make the problem worse, it said, quoting youth expert Zhao Cuiping as saying.

"In analysis over the past decade on what young people like, they far prefer skulls and other scary images to cats or dogs," she said.

"Rebellion, curiosity and craving for

stimulation are the character traits of this group. So putting a skull on a pack of cigarettes could attract their interest and help them take up smoking."

Chinese cigarettes are also among the cheapest in the world and a packet can cost as little as 8 U.S. cents.

The country must rein in smoking or the habit could end up killing 2.2 million Chinese a year by 2020, the World Health Organization said in May.

A senior official from China's State Tobacco Monopoly warned earlier this year that smoking was so pervasive in China that efforts to curb it would upset social stability.

Neanderthal man cleaned his teeth, experts find

MADRID (Reuters) — Two molar teeth of around 63,400 years old show that Neanderthal predecessors of humans may have been dental hygiene fans, the Web site of newspaper El Pais reported Tuesday.

The teeth have "grooves formed by the passage of a pointed object, which confirms the use of a small stick for cleaning the mouth," Paleontology Professor Juan Luis Asuaga told reporters, presenting an archaeological find in Madrid.

The fossils, unearthed in Pinilla del Valle, are the first human examples found in the Madrid region in 25 years, the regional government's culture department said.

Neanderthals were predecessors of modern humans who inhabited much of Europe, North Africa and parts of Asia from about 125,000 to 30,000

years ago.

"There are two (teeth), perfectly preserved, in which the wear and tear of a human of about 30 years old is perceptible," a government statement said.

Hey, big boy! Any interest?

ABUJA (Reuters) — Nigerian banks must stop using attractive women to persuade customers to open accounts, Senate President David Mark was quoted as saying in Thursday's newspapers.

Mark said that despite a consolidation of the sector in 2005 that reduced the number of banks to 25 from 89 and was supposed to make them more efficient, many banks still used women to attract new business.

"Banks have made it a policy to employ beautiful ladies and give them targets to meet," Mark said Wednesday.

"This is unacceptable and must stop. You ordered the consolidation, so I think you must do something to stop it," he said, addressing officials of the central bank.

"We thought that with the consolidation in the banking sector, the banks will have enough money and capacity to get customers. Why is it that all these girls are now moving around hustling as if they are looking for something other than money?"

The consolidation, triggered by the central bank's decision to raise the minimum capital base for banks twelvefold, has been hailed by the Nigerian government as one of the major successes of a broader program of economic reforms.

**S
u
d
o
k
u**

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

East

Shark