

THE

# Dog Face Daily

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*Serving Task Force Marne*



Sgt. Ben Brody

Spc. Joe Penhale, a flight medic with Co. C, 2-3 Avn. Regt., shouts instructions to a medic at Patrol Base Murray during a MEDEVAC mission for two wounded Iraqi police officers Sept. 13.

In a dangerous area ...

## Hope flies from Kalsu

**SGT. BEN BRODY**

3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

BAGHDAD — To see its Soldiers sprawled across couches and recliners, watching movies and casually chatting, it's hard to see how disciplined and proficient the medical evacuation crews of 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade really are.

Then the call comes in on a loud-speaker, "MEDEVAC, MEDEVAC, MEDEVAC!"

In an instant, the troops vanish, as if into thin air. The wail of helicopter engines starting up drifts in from the tarmac.

And they're off.

The crews are allowed 15 minutes to get into the air, but on the morning of Sept. 12, they were up in five.

An Iraqi man had been hit by a car in Mahmudiyah, and his family brought him to U.S. troops. With severe head injuries, Soldiers knew the man's best chance for survival was in the hands of

American doctors.

"Sixty or 70 percent of the calls we get are for Iraqis — civilians, military, police, and a lot of kids," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Rick Mallick, an instructor pilot with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment.

Minutes later, the crew of the Black Hawk known as Medicine Man 42 touched down at FOB Mahmudiyah and loaded the injured man into the

**See MEDEVAC, Page 3**

# Faith and Service: Ramadan through the eyes of a Muslim Soldier

RENANAH MILES  
MND-C PAO

BAGHDAD — For Iraqis, the tempo of life changes during Ramadan. Business hours adjust to accommodate fasting. Food, drink and cigarettes are untouched as Muslims abstain during daylight hours. Days revolve around the calls to prayer marking the start and break of fasting.

Coalition Forces may note these changes out on patrols and various missions. But Ramadan is not just outside the base; Muslim Soldiers also try to balance the spiritual and physical demands of Ramadan with the tenuous nature of a combat environment.

SpC. Lamia Lahlou, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, is a young Muslim Soldier stationed at Camp Striker.

This Ramadan is her first while deployed.

Lahlou's background is extraordinary. In 2001, as a teenager, she moved to the United States from Morocco. On Sept. 11 that same year, she found herself an eyewitness to the collapse of the World Trade Center.

Lahlou knew then what she had to do.

"I just decided to join the Army ... because I couldn't get over it," she said. "It was stuck in my mind."

After struggling for years to enter military service, Lahlou made it in. This Ramadan, Lahlou is in Iraq, and she is fasting.

Abstaining from food and drink is not an easy feat for any of the U.S. Muslim Soldiers serving in Iraq.

"We're going to be fasting from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., no food, no drink, no nothing, so it's going to be difficult for us especially with the heat," Lahlou said. "We need water."

The Army is helping Lahlou with her religious observance, allowing her to switch to a night shift for the month of Ramadan. She is able to sleep during the day while fasting, and then wake up and eat the evening meal — her

*"I understand that no matter what, God will help me ... to do better."*

— SpC. Lamia Lahlou  
3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div.

breakfast — before going to work. Not all Muslim Soldiers will have that opportunity.

"If they're required to be at work at a certain time, they're required to do it," Lahlou explained, recalling a conversation she had recently with a friend. "He was calling me and asking me, 'Well, what am I going to do?'"

Her advice? "Hey, don't fast. I mean, yes, we understand fasting is part of the religion, and we have to get it done, but God knows. If you're in a situation like this then you don't have to fast."

There is an exemption in Islam for Muslim Soldiers who are in combat during Ramadan. They are released from the requirement to fast, if they make up the sacrifice at some future point in the year.

"I see a lot of Soldiers (who) always make it up later, and I understand that they know what to do," Lahlou said.

The demands of the month are compensated by the spiritual significance of the act for Lahlou.

"I feel close to God," Lahlou explained. "I know that God knows that I work a lot of hours — 12 hours, no days off. I just need time to take a shower and eat and go to bed."

If the demands of her faith are difficult at times, Lahlou said she knows God will see her through a trying period.

"I understand that no matter what, God will help me. I'll be close to him, and he will help me to do better," she said.

Lahlou had some advice for non-Muslim Soldiers: "I want them to learn how Ramadan works."

Eating in front of fasting Soldiers is not respectful, she said. They need the consideration of their fellow troops.

"We need some rest," she explained. "Working the whole day with no food, no drink is kind of hard."

Her suggestion was "to give them some time off, and help them out, and share things together, and when it's time for food at 6 p.m., bring them food, be nice to them."

## KARAOKE NIGHT!

When: Sept. 19 at 6 p.m.  
Where: TF Marne DFAC

### THE Dog Face Daily

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Photos by Sgt. Ben Brody

Aboard a Black Hawk helicopter, Sgt. Reid Carpenter, a flight medic with Co. C, 2-3 Avn. Regt., administers an IV to an Iraqi man who was struck by a car Sept. 12. At right, medics at FOB Mahmudiyah carry the man to a MEDEVAC helicopter. He was flown to Balad for treatment.



## MEDEVAC: 3rd CAB crews rush to the scene at a moment's notice

### From Page 1

helicopter.

Sgt. Reid Carpenter, a flight medic with Co. C, immediately went to work, changing the man's IV and checking his vital signs.

Carpenter, from Mauston, Wisc., is on his first Iraq deployment after extensive training at Fort Rucker, Ala., and said he has found his calling.

"It's a huge rush going out," he said. "The MEDEVAC call is something you hate to hear, but you've just got to get on the bird as fast as you can. When the helo is coming in and I can see the ground crew below, that's when the excitement peaks — that's when it's my time."

Tearing over the Tigris River valley toward Baghdad at 150 mph, the helicopters, which are not armed with ma-

chine guns in accordance with the Geneva Convention, carve a direct route to Taji Air Base.

"When we land in unsecured areas, it's more exciting, but also way more dangerous than landing on a FOB," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jerry Dickerson, a pilot with Co. C. "Other pilots plan their routes long in advance based on enemy threat. While we certainly take the threat into consideration, we also consider that there's someone dying out there and we need to get there as fast as possible."

Once back at Kalsu, the crew inspected their helicopters, replaced the flares that were fired and fueled up for the next mission. Votes were cast for the next movie to watch — *Reno: 911* won by a landslide.

It would be another 24 hours before another call came in, this time from Pa-

trol Base Murray, where two badly injured Iraqi policemen waited for evacuation.

Though they were both conscious and walking, one of the policemen had been shot in the face and leg; the other had been struck in the head with a hammer.

After the pickup, crew members brought the two men to the Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad's International Zone, where they would undergo immediate surgery.

Flight medic Spc. Joe Penhale, of Co. C, escorted the wounded men into the CSH, and discussed their condition with a surgeon.

"The guy who was shot lost over a quart of blood, but he's going to survive because we got there in a hurry," said Penhale, from Marquette, Mich. "It's a great feeling."

## Safety Thought of the Day

### Protect Ballistic Glass

- Ballistic glass will cloud and become yellow from exposure to solar UV light and heat.
- If possible, park your vehicle in a position that shields the cab windows from direct sunlight. Use existing shade from buildings, trees, or man-made screen.
- Placing a tarpaulin over the vehicles cab does protect against sunlight, but it traps heat, causing

deterioration to the glass panels.

- Allow for air circulation between tarpaulin and vehicle.
- Ballistic glass that is cracked, broken, or discolored sufficiently to impair operator vision will render a vehicle NMC and must be replaced.
- For more information see TACOM MAM 06-004 on the AEPS website: <https://aeps.ria.army.mil>

## Headline Highlights

# Japanese fatherhood exams; pasta protesters

## Daddy exam tests Japan men

TOKYO (Reuters) — “Who played the father in the movie ‘Kramer versus Kramer’?”

That’s one of the 50 questions Japanese men could face in a “daddy exam”, meant to raise awareness about fatherhood in a country where men tend to work long hours and leave their wives in charge of childcare and household chores.

Even men who remember Dustin Hoffman struggling as a father in the movie may have a hard time answering questions ranging from potty training and baby food to politics, such as the percentage of gross domestic product used for parenting support.

Tetsuya Ando, director of Fathering Japan, a Tokyo non-profit organization that came up with the test and will offer it to eager dads from next March, said the exam was a catchy way to get fathers into parenting.

“There just isn’t enough information about parenting for fathers. Through the exam, we want men to realize that they don’t know anything about child-rearing,” he said.

For the price of 3,900 yen (\$34), fathers can find out whether they qualify as a “Super Dad”, or are in need of more effort as a “Challenge Dad.”

“We have received inquiries from fathers, single men, to-be-dads, grand-fathers ... even an aunt who was concerned that her nephew is too busy with work to notice the fun of parenting,” Ando said.

The image of fathers is gradually changing in Japan as younger men

eschew their own dads’ hands-off approach in favor of closer involvement, and a wave of new parenting magazines for male readers has been hitting newsstands. But it is still hard for Japanese fathers to cut down on work to spend more time with their families. Only 0.5 percent of employed men in Japan took parental leave in 2005, as opposed to 14 percent in the United States and 12 percent in Britain in 2000.

## Italians boycott pasta

ROME (Reuters) — Many Italians excluded their beloved pasta from their supermarket shopping Thursday in protest at forthcoming price rises and consumer groups hailed the boycott as an excellent result.

Italians are in a state of outrage that rising wheat prices mean a plate of spaghetti in the next few months will almost certainly go up, even if by only a few cents, as many families eat pasta every day of the week.

“Pasta, bread, milk — these are the most important things. We are not protesting for perfumes or jewels, but for pasta and bread,” said one of demonstrators, Marisa, at a Rome protest.

“It is the government’s fault, they’ve eaten everything.”

Justice Minister Clemente Mastella promised to support the cause by skipping his favorite Neapolitan dish of pasta tubes stuffed with tomatoes and ricotta. But there were few signs of his compatriots making a similar sacrifice at lunchtime, with hungry workers eating their usual pasta dishes at Rome restaurants that ignored the boycott.

“The pasta strike is symbolic, a call for Italians to make a sacrifice — to sacrifice something we can’t give up, even when we travel abroad,” said Carlo Pileri of the ADOC consumer group.

Summing up Italians’ passion for pasta, 14th-century Italian sea captain, Baccicino Parodi, wrote in his ship’s log: “I can manage without a compass, but I do not feel like setting out without lasagne.”

Pileri said the rise in prices could prevent families from “saving money to buy other products, such as shoes, clothes or cars ...” — three other Italian passions.

Consumer groups said a straw poll of shoppers leaving supermarkets in six cities showed nearly half had not bought a packet of pasta by midday — hailed as an excellent result.

Demonstrators in Rome held up yellow banners showing a sharp rise in prices, and gave away free packets of pasta. The jump in bread, pasta and dairy product prices will lead to an estimated annual 7 percent rise in food prices overall, they say, with further price hikes feared to be on the way.

A more than doubling in wheat prices over the past year is to blame, spurring Italy’s biggest milling group to raise flour prices by more than 50 percent by year-end. Barilla, the world’s largest pasta maker, has signaled it will raise prices soon. All of that translates into a rise of only a few cents on a packet of pasta since a kilo costs well below a euro.

But the move has touched an emotional nerve among Italians weary of steadily rising prices and higher taxes.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

**Solution to Saturday’s puzzle:**

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

## ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

West

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