

THE

Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

TF Marne troops receive big praise



Rick -

17 Sep 07



'MARNE 6' - a short note to say how proud I am of you and your entire Marne Team. You and your great Soldiers have performed superbly under very tough conditions. Know that you and your Soldiers are making a difference and making our Army proud of you all.

Continue to take care of your Soldiers and Continue the mission. Thank you for the sacrifices you, your Soldiers and your families make everyday for this great Nation. You all are Army Strong!

Commander Cody
VASA

Fighting smugglers on the Iran-Iraq border

SGT. BEN BRODY
MND-C PAO

AL KUT — Rusted rocket engines, twisted scraps of steel and demolished buildings litter the Iran-Iraq border, stark reminders of the war that started nearly 30 years ago.

Only a few shepherds and farmers

live in the mountainous, heavily mined area near the border crossing in Wasit Province.

The area's quiet desolation hides the fact that newly-trained insurgents and Iranian-produced weapons often must pass through here before wreaking havoc on central Iraq.

Under the direction of the Depart-

ment of Border Enforcement, a few hundred Iraqi border police live at the point of entry and other forts along the border. At the remote border forts, camouflaged police patrol for smugglers and watch their Iranian counterparts from across a sea of land mines and razor wire.

See BORDER, Page 3

Georgian Army conducts convoy training



Sgt. Ben Brody

Platoon leaders from 3rd Georgian Infantry Brigade watch their troops train on convoy security at FOB Delta Sept 24. The Georgian troops are responsible for manning checkpoints near the Iranian border.



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

BORDER: *Coalition and Iraqi forces work to secure Iranian border*

From Page 1

Police at the border forts claim all the smuggling takes place at the point of entry, while POE police claim all the smugglers come over the mountains in view of the forts. For those in Baghdad, it is clear that somewhere along the border, weapons and trained Shiite militiamen are coming in from Iran.

"The passing of responsibility is a throwback to the Saddam days, when if you admitted failure, it was off with your head," said Col. Mark Mueller, commander of the Border Transition Team, a U.S. unit that advises and supports Iraqi Border Police in Wasit Province. "The reality is, stuff is coming through – we know because we capture it."

Because of an agreement between the Iraqi and Iranian governments, a maximum of 1,200 people may pass into Iraq per day. After the fall of Saddam, about 10,000 Iranians crossed into Iraq each day, primarily to visit Shiite holy sites in Karbala and Najaf, according to Brig. Gen. Wissam Sammi, who oversees the point of entry.

"There were too many – we couldn't search enough people or do checks on them," Sammi said. "Now the number is manageable, but with more guards we can have more control."

Shiite pilgrims still pass through the point of entry regularly, but so do huge convoys of tractor trailers, carrying goods to sell in Iraq. An enormous X-ray machine scans the trucks for contraband, but more reliable hand searches require manpower that is dif-



Sgt. Ben Brody

Capt. Jeremy Haley speaks with Brig. Gen. Wissam Sammi, who runs a point of entry on the Iran-Iraq border. Haley talked to Sammi about security and passed on a list of individuals wanted by Coalition Forces.

ficult to come by in the desert.

Recently, the BTT's Nomad Team was able to hire 20 men to unload trucks and inspect cargo for a day.

"At \$30 a worker per day, the border police can't afford to hire people to help unload trucks, so that's where we can help them accomplish their mission," said Capt. Will Trenor of the BTT.

Like a miniature version of the troop surge in Baghdad, the U.S. plan to turn security over to Iraqis here involves temporarily building up the Coalition presence.

Like the programs in Anbar, Baghdad and Babil provinces, security forces here increasingly rely on nationalist

sheikhs to combat Shiite militias on the border.

During a BTT visit to one border fort Sept. 28, Sheikh Fadhel Allami, captain of the Allami tribe, stopped in to discuss his plan to rid the area of militia influence.

"Our only loyalty is to Iraq – no militias or foreign governments will control us," the amiable sheikh promised. "Iran wants to destroy Iraq. God willing, we will be better and stronger."

The BTT is slated to start operating from the new border outpost in mid-November.

"Just in time for rainy season," Trenor said.

Safety Thought of the Day

HMMWV towing reminders

- During recovery operations for disabled equipment, ensure PCC includes checking for tow bars or cables for each vehicle.
- Tow bars are the preferred method for towing vehicles. In emergency situations tow straps or cables may be used. However, remember that extra care must be exercised to prevent injury to Soldiers or damage

equipment.

- Do not exceed a towing speed of 30 mph (48 kph) or a towing distance of 30 mi (48 km) without first removing the front propeller shaft and/or rear propeller shaft with the parking brake rotor.
- At no time should personnel stand between the two vehicles unless it is absolutely necessary.

Headline Highlights

Driver gets bent over wheel ; Stealing screws

Irate driver kills over mangled wheel

MOSCOW (Reuters) - An irate driver shot dead a Moscow road worker and injured a second after a wheel on his Mercedes car was damaged on a city street early Sunday, Interfax news agency reported.

Described by Moscow police as a short man in his late twenties, the driver returned with a pistol and opened fire on the workmen just minutes after they refused to compensate him for the damage the roadworks had caused.

The worker started working for the firm two days earlier.

Thief nailed selling a million stolen screws

BERLIN (Reuters) - A German factory worker stole over a million screws from his employer and skewed the market with his cheap stolen goods, police said Friday.

"In the end, it became obvious that screws were being sold for much less than they usually cost," said a spokesman for police in the southern city of Wuerzburg.

Over two years, the 33-year-old assembly plant worker smuggled between 2,000 and 7,000 screws out of work each night, and auctioned them on an Internet site, police said.

3rd Infantry Division Yearbook

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Sudoku

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to Saturday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Direction

Et-tee-jah