

THE

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Serving Task Force Marne

Aerial surveillance catches attackers

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

KALSU — A helium blimp provided Coalition Forces the viewpoint to see four insurgents responsible for a road-side bomb attack Sept. 30.

The camera located inside the AEROSTAT, a helium blimp used for aerial surveillance, allowed forces to identify the location of the men who attacked a

Coalition convoy.

"This engagement was tailor made for the AEROSTAT," said 1st Lt. Vitaly Gelfgat of Princeton, N.J.

"We saw the blast, found the insurgents responsible and then responded with the necessary force," Vitaly said.

This was the second kinetic action that was initiated by AEROSTAT surveillance.

"The mission of the AEROSTAT is to

monitor roads, impact areas, provide battle damage assessments and give constant aerial surveillance for defensive purposes," said Sgt. Reuben Carrington of Cabot, Ark.

This multi-million dollar blimp is equipped with a day and infrared setting that allows its user to see a full 360 degrees with distances ranging from 10 meters to several kilometers 24 hours a day.

Let the lessons begin

Joint efforts turn terrorist center into schoolhouse

SGT. 1ST CLASS ANGELA MCKINZIE
2ND BCT, 10TH MTN. DIV. (LI)

LUTIFIYAH — Attending schools with basic amenities such as libraries, restrooms and desks seems like a given to Americans.

However, many Iraqi children have not been afforded the opportunity to attend schools with such amenities until recently.

Iraqi citizens gathered at the Jolan School in Lutifiyah, Iraq, for a grand opening ceremony Oct. 1.

The school, renovated under the leadership of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., and the 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, is a sign of progress.

"This school was once used as an al-Qaeda recruiting facility," said 1st Lt. Aaron Hall, a native of Manhattan, Kan., who serves as a civil affairs officer with 2-15's Military Transition Team. "I remember when this building was covered with graffiti."

Hall, who saw the need for school improvements, turned in a request to use Commander's Emergency Response Program funds to his battalion commander, Lt. Col. Bob Morschauser.

With the vision of a new Iraq in mind, Morschauser approved the request and sent it to higher headquarters for approval.

Once this CERP project was approved, Coalition Forces contracted with local Iraqi contractors for the school renovations.

"We used a contracting company that was widely known for their work before the war started," Hall explained.

"They are one of the largest contracting companies in southern Baghdad."

Within a few months, the fruits of everyone's labor showed as hundreds of Iraqi children gathered to see their newly renovated school.

"This really makes me happy," said Mustafar, a student at Jolan School. "Our school has never been this nice."

During the opening, Brig. Gen. Ali, the 4-6 IA commander, smiled as he walked through the schoolhouse. As he looked around he smiled and paused to reflect what the school means to Iraq.

"All of this is for our future," Ali said as he looked down at a child. "Our time is gone (speaking of the Iraqi elders), but our future is right here."

The mayor of Mahmudiyah smiled as he shook Morschauser hand and thanked him for the school.

"Seeing this today is all worth the money and effort spent," Morschauser, a native of Fairless Hills, Penn., said of the school opening.

The two-story school is large enough to house 1,200 students — 600 during the day and 600 at night. It is equipped with a computer lab, new desks, renovated classrooms and even a playground in the back yard.

But it is the small amenities that really make the school special.

"Before the school had broken windows and only one bathroom that all 1,200 students used," Hall said. "Now there are several bathrooms and all of the windows are fixed."

School renovations are just a small way to show Iraqis the importance of their future.

"This is what children should go to school in," Morschauser said, smiling.

Operation Anchorage nets five, stops VBIED

SGT. LUIS DELGADILLO AND SGT. KEVIN STABINSKY
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB Falcon — Coalition Forces detained five suspected insurgents and destroyed a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device with two joint direct attack munitions Sept. 30 during Operation Anchorage, east of FOB Falcon.

Paratroopers of the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment along with several Iraqi army soldiers conducted a night air assault raid here in the early morning hours. The detainees are suspected to be involved with attacks conducted on an IA checkpoint, said Capt. Donald Braman, commander, Troop B.

The Iraqi troops detained the suspects after finding an AK-47 with four fully loaded magazines, a shotgun, more than 500 meters of command wire, IED-making electronic components and anti-Iraqi forces propaganda in the house where the suspects were found.

The raid also netted a five-ton white bongo truck in the process of being rigged as a VBIED. An explosives-detecting K-9 reacted to explosive residue on the vehicle. An F-16 was called in and struck the truck with a JDAM.

Braman said the IA soldiers are among the elite, and impressed him during this operation. The IA were the main effort responsible for clearing the targeted building believed to have been used by high value al-Qaeda leaders as safehouses.

"The Iraqi army soldiers who are part of the scout platoon after just three days of training ... were just as good as our guys," Braman said.

The night air assault is a strong way Coalition Forces are keeping insurgents on edge.

"Al-Qaeda isn't used to seeing Americans in this area," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Ward, A section team leader with 1st platoon. "We caught them by surprise."

Air assaults, such as this one, are vital to keeping these insurgents on the run. "It scares them, let's them know we can go anywhere," Ward said. "Any disruption we get on these guys is good. It keeps them off their 'A game.'"

Braman agreed.

"Every time we go out and take the fight to the enemy we disrupt them; make his life uncomfortable," he said. "The life of an insurgent isn't an easy life. When they are on the run, they have to sleep in open fields, in canals; they get tired. As long as they know we are coming after them they can't sleep easy."



courtesy photos

A five-ton truck in the process of being rigged as a VBIED was discovered during Operation Anchorage. A bomb sniffing K-9 reacted to explosive residue on the vehicle. Five suspected insurgents were detained in the joint raid by Paratroopers of the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and soldiers of the scout platoon, 5th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army division.



THE Dog Face Daily

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Task Force Marne 4th Quarter Safety Rollup



On September 21, TF Marne passed the 180-day mark in theater. During this quarter, TF Marne experienced 59 recordable accidents (3.8 per 1000 personnel), compared with 140 recordable accidents (4.6 per 1000 personnel) during OIF III. This represents a 17% reduction in our accident rate between OIF III and OIF V. Additionally, the number of recordable accidents is down 10% from last quarter, from 156 to 140. Significantly, there were no fatalities or class A accidents this quarter. Once again, TF Marne Soldiers and leaders continue to set the standard for safety in the Iraqi theater of operations.

Going forward, we see the following hazards to be the biggest threats to TF Marne personnel:

- 1. Vehicle accidents/rollovers.** Vehicle accidents and rollovers have been a constant threat, but the danger will be greater in the next quarter. The rainy season will bring higher water levels in the canals, so there is a much greater drowning hazard. Units that are redeploying must also be on guard against "get-home-itis," which causes Soldiers to rush through tasks without caution. Leaders, continue to battle the causes of vehicle accidents: Fatigue, speed, driving without NVGs at night, improper vehicle loading and handling, overconfidence, and being in a hurry. Continue to enforce the use of seatbelts.
- 2. Aviation.** Aviation accidents more than doubled from last quarter, from 9 to 19, as aviation operational requirements have increased. Fortunately, there have been no aviation fatalities. However, this remains a major area of concern, because the nature of aviation is inherently dangerous and aviation accidents are more likely to be lethal. With the increased OPTEMPO, it becomes even more important for leaders to factor in key elements such as crew rest, maintenance, and additional stressors to the mission as part of the CRM process.
- 3. Fratricide.** Friendly fire incidents continue to occur. Although we have had no fratricide fatalities this quarter, we can't rely on luck. Prevent friendly fire incidents by stressing the need for all Soldiers to maintain situational awareness and have positive identification of the target before engaging. Additionally, ensure all vehicles have the appropriate anti-fratricide markings IAW Task 7, FRAGO 135 to MND-C OPOD 07-020.
- 4. Personal injuries** should also be noted. Although personal injuries are not usually life-threatening, they constitute the majority of our accidents (61%), and they result in lost time, degrade the mission, and may leave the service member with permanent partial disability or disfigurement.

It is also important for units to continue as always to guard against the other known safety hazards in theater, including heat injuries and electrical hazards. Doing things safely means saving lives. **The key to our ongoing success will be engaged leaders.** Fight complacency and continue to be vigilant!

RICK LYNCH
MG, USA
Commanding

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PREVENT ACCIDENTS: CALL 318-822-5576

Headline Highlights

Low interest divorce loans; fecal phenomenon

From heart-broken to broke? Japan divorce loan helps

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan's first-ever divorce loan caters to those who fell head over heels in love only to find themselves up to their necks in debt.

Named "Re" for those re-starting their lives, the loan helps divorcees cover the cost of compensation and legal payments and offers a lower interest rate than credit cards loans, on which Japan's growing number of divorce-seekers have depended in the past.

"It's not that we are recommending divorces," said Yoshimi Aoki, spokesman for Ogaki Kyoritsu Bank, based in Gifu, central Japan, which offers the loan.

"But we want people to feel more comfortable in visiting banks to consult on these issues," Aoki added.

While Japan's divorce rate is still low in comparison with the United States and Europe, failed marriages have been on the rise in recent years.

In 2006, there were two divorce cases for every 1,000 people, up from 1.7 cases in 1996, according to government data.

The divorce rate in the United States was 3.6 per 1,000 total population in 2005, while in Russia it was 5.5 and 2.8 in the United Kingdom in 2003.

In Japan, divorcees found responsible for the failure of their marriage -- for example, because of their unfaithfulness -- on average have to pay 4 million yen (\$35,000) in compensation

to their former partners, according to the Mainichi Newspaper.

Aoki said that in the past, Japanese divorcees have often sought to pay off divorce debts with consumer finance loans or credit card loans, which tend to have annual interest rates of 15-20 percent.

But with the newly launched divorce loan, divorcees can borrow up to 5 million yen (\$43,000), paying a floating interest rate that stood at 5.8 percent on Monday.

Turner Prize: Is it art? Fans get chance to decide

LONDON (Reuters) - Pickled cows, elephant dung paintings and a transvestite potter -- The Turner Prize deserves its reputation as one of art's most controversial awards.

Now art lovers can decide for themselves if the prize rewards pretentious twaddle or cutting edge British art. Almost a quarter of a century of Turner prizewinners went on display on Monday at London's Tate Britain museum.

The Turner enrages traditionalists who argue that it is a travesty of modern art, but the show attracts up to 120,000 visitors a year intrigued to see what all the fuss is about.

In 1995, the "Bad Boy" of British contemporary art Damien Hirst won with a pickled cow. In 2003, transvestite potter Grayson Perry wore a frilly Shirley Temple dress to accept his award. Chris Ofili used elephant dung to adorn his

1998 winning entries.

Pop star Madonna swore live on television when presenting the award in 2001 to Martin Creed, who won with a bare room containing a light that switched on and off.

But is it art? The debate has raged ever since the Turner was first awarded in 1984, although one thing critics can agree on is that the prize deserved full marks for putting contemporary art in the center of public discussion.

"All publicity is good publicity. I give it 10 out of 10 for opening up public debate and 10 out of 10 for exporting the event around the world. Britart is in sparkling health," said art writer Meredith Etherington-Smith.

Reflecting on the art fest habitually derided by mocking tabloid newspapers, ArtReview editor Mark Rappolt said: "It certainly pulls in the crowds..."

But he sounded a note of caution.

"Where it is going now is an open question. At some point you are going to run out of noteworthy young artists," he told Reuters. "But it has definitely helped to popularize art."

Tate Britain director Stephen Deuchar defends the prize, telling Reuters at Monday's press viewing: "We do not deliberately sensationalize. Nothing could be further from the truth."

"We want the artists to be comfortable with media pressure. We have to shield them. But of course the point of the prize was to stimulate debate, so we can't turn around and complain."

Sudoku

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Go

Rooh