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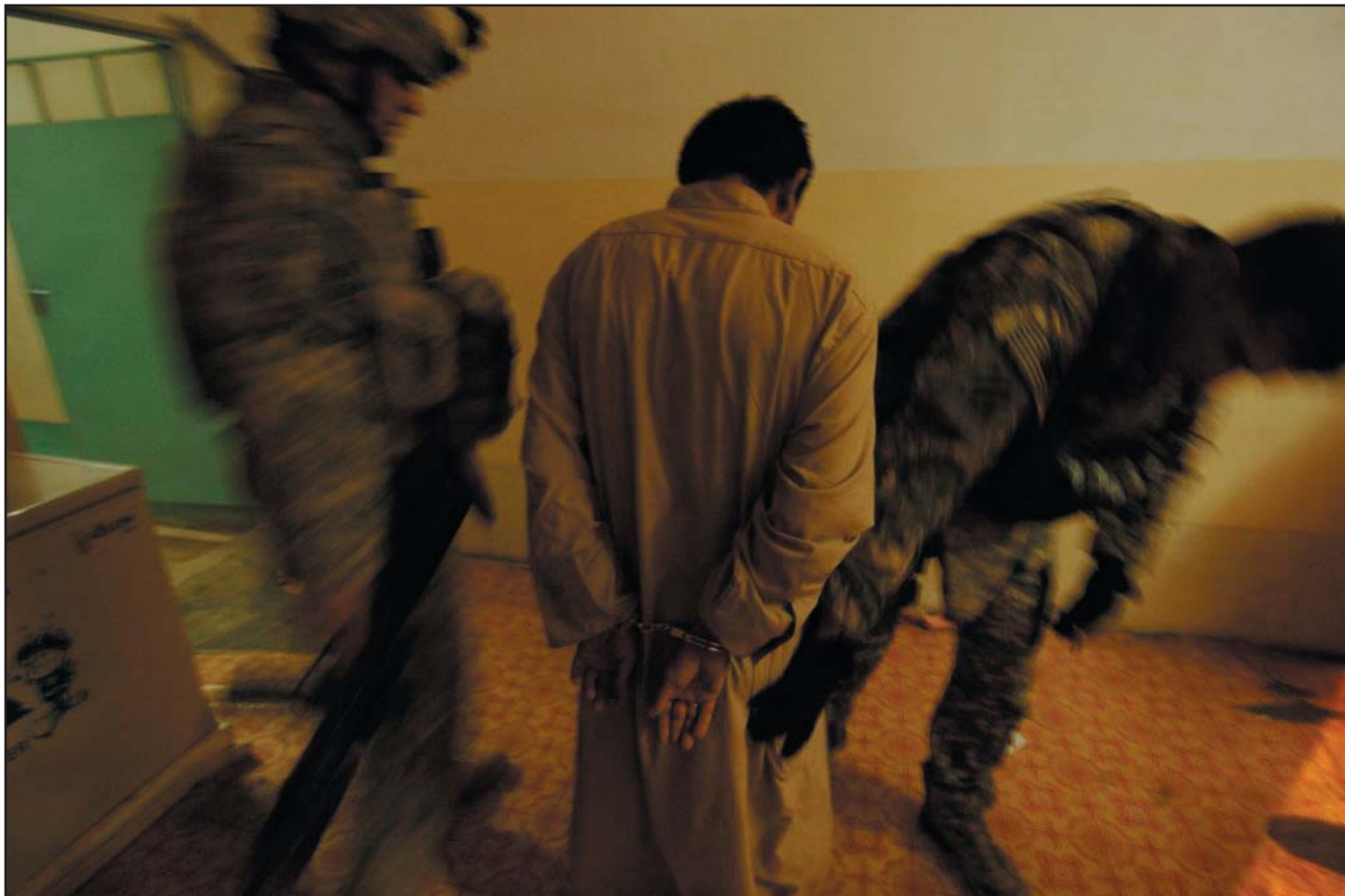
Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne



Sgt. Timothy Kingston

Soldiers from the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment search a suspected insurgent during a night raid east of Baghdad Sept. 30. The raid, conducted with Iraqi National Police, resulted in the detention of a high-value individual and a small cache.

Cavalry Soldiers, ISF detain high-value individual

MAJ. JOE SOWERS

3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — Elements of the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment and Iraqi National policemen conducted a raid east of Baghdad resulting in the detention of a high-value individual and three other suspected extremists Sept. 30.

Soldiers from Troop A and the Time-Sensitive Target platoon of the 3-1 Cav. Regt. conducted the raid with their police partners to kill or capture the HVI and to deny extremists sanctuary in the

Regiment's area of operation.

The HVI is suspected of maintaining a leadership position in a local extremist network.

Information obtained by the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team officials links the HVI to indirect fire attacks against Coalition Forces and weapons smuggling.

Detaining this individual should assist us in reducing indirect fire attacks and takes us one step closer to making the Al-Kut Highway a safe route," said Maj. Desmond Bailey, a native of Alabama, the 3-1 Cav. Regt. operations of-

ficer.

Bailey further explained that continued efforts to engage local leaders has resulted in greater information on suspected extremists and insurgents in the squadron's area of operation.

An Iraqi Security Force uniform, an AK-47 assault rifle and a large amount of small arms ammunition were seized during the raid.

The 3-1 Cav. Regt. is part of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.

Fasting to feasting: Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr

RENANAH MILES
MND-C PAO

BAGHDAD — As October dawns and the moon wanes, Muslims enter the final stretch of Ramadan, a period including several days of great significance for Muslims around the world.

Lailat al-Qadr, the “Night of Power,” is deemed the holiest night of the entire Muslim year. Eid al-Fitr, the feast of fast-breaking, marks the end of Rama-

dan and the beginning of a three-day celebration.

According to most Muslims, when the sun sets on the 27th night of Ramadan (October 9th this year), the Night of Power will commence. As with most Muslim holidays, however, the exact date is open to interpretation. Some devout Muslims will spend the entire last ten days of the month worshipping in the mosque, a practice known as I’tikaf, or spiritual retreat.

Lailat al-Qadr marks the night Muslims believe the Qu’ran was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed. It is considered a night when spiritual forces are at work on earth. Devout Muslims will spend hours in prayer and recitation, for the Qu’ran says this night is better than a thousand months, and that angels descend to earth to do the will of God.

See RAMADAN, Page 3

‘The Surge’ rocks out for first gig



courtesy photo

Spc. William Edwards, lead vocalist of ‘The Surge,’ and bass player for the official 3rd Infantry Division Band, stands at the front of the make-shift stage and, as they power into their first song, leads the group through the first gig of the tour. To read more about the Surge and Edwards visit the Task Force Marne Web site at www.taskforcemarne.com and click on Soldiers’ Stories.

SOLDIER'S STORIES

For stories about the Soldiers performing the day-to-day tasks, and the operations supporting Task Force Marne, check out Soldier’s Stories on the World Wide Web at www.taskforcemarne.com, then click on Soldier’s Stories.



THE Dog Face Daily

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RAMADAN: *fasting nearly over for Muslims*

From Page 2

For radical Muslims, this belief can lead to feelings of empowerment, raising the security risk from would-be martyrs who feel emboldened by a perceived supernatural presence.

Attempted attacks on U.S. forces have been linked to the night in recent years. On January 3, 2000, al-Qaeda operatives tried bombing the U.S. destroyer, USS The Sullivans, in the harbor at Aden, Yemen. The suicide boat, overloaded with explosives, sank before it reached its target.

Thus far in 2007, security is trending in favor of coalition security for Ramadan. During a September 30 press conference, Multi-National Force – Iraq spokesman Rear Adm. Mark Fox told reporters levels of violence were down substantially for the month over past years.

“We are substantially below last year’s level. As a matter of fact, in comparison to this time last year, about 38 percent lower in terms of Ramadan violence levels,” he said.

Fox attributed the dip to the U.S. troop surge and its aggressive pursuit of insurgent networks.

This is good news for Iraqis, as they move into the end of the holy month, freeing them to enjoy with more confidence the breaking of the fast and the festivities which traditionally follow.

For as the moon wanes, Ramadan gives way to a joyous occasion: Eid al-Fitr, the Feast of the Breaking of the Fast. It is a time for Muslims to celebrate the completion of their sacrifice and the devotion shown over the preceding weeks.

Eid is one of two great Muslim feasts every year. It begins the morning Ramadan ends, after recitation of the Eid prayer.

The three days of the Eid are spent with family and friends, visiting each other. Small gifts are given, especially to children. A traditional holiday greeting is “Eid Mubarak,” which means, “May God make it a blessed feast.”

For coalition forces in Iraq, a peaceful celebration by and for the Iraqi people is reason for celebration in itself.

To America’s Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and your families,

I am honored today to begin my term as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As I do, allow me to thank you for your service at this critical time in our Nation’s history.

Whether you serve in Baghdad or Bagram, Kabul or Kuwait -- whether you find yourself at sea in the Pacific, flying support missions over Europe, on the ground in Africa, or working every day at stateside bases -- you are making a difference and so is every person in your family. Your service matters. And I do not take it for granted.

The world is a dangerous place. The hundreds of thousands of you who have deployed since September 11th -- many of you more than once -- already know that. You’ve stood up to those dangers. You have lost friends to them. You may even have lost some of yourself to them. The dangers of this new and uncertain era have hit you and the people you love squarely in the gut. I will not lose sight of that.

Nor should any of us lose sight of the need to continue serving. The enemies we face, from radical jihadists to regional powers with nuclear ambitions, directly and irrefutably threaten our vital national interests. They threaten our very way of life.

You stand between these dangers and the American people. You are the sentinels of freedom.

I am not interested in planning to fight the last war, but neither am I interested in ignoring the valuable lessons we continue to learn from this one. It would be foolish to dismiss the knowledge you have gained. I will not do that.

I know the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are taking a toll on you and your families. They are taking a toll on our equipment, our systems, and our ability to train as well. I worry, quite frankly, that they are taking a toll on our readiness for other threats in other places.

But that does not mean our struggles there are not important. They most certainly are important. They are vital.

To the degree the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan contribute to or detract from a stable, secure Middle East, they bear a direct effect on the security of the United States. That is why my number one priority will be developing a comprehensive strategy to defend our National interests in the region.



file photo

Next on my list is resetting, reconstituting, and revitalizing our Armed Forces, especially the Army and Marine Corps. I believe our ground forces are the center of gravity for the all volunteer force and that we need to make sure that force is correctly shaped and sized, trained, and equipped to defend the Nation.

Finally, I intend to properly balance global strategic risk. We must stay mindful of our many global security commitments and of the core warfighting capabilities, resources, and partnerships required to conduct operations across the full spectrum of peace and conflict. The demands of current operations, however great, should not dominate our training exercises, education curricula, and readiness programs.

The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan will one day end. We must be ready for who and what comes after.

There is much to do. The speed of war, the pace of change, is too great for any of us to manage it alone. I need your help, your ideas, and your input. Whenever I travel to the field and to the fleet, I expect you to tell me what’s on your mind. Tell me what you think. I need your constant feedback. I can’t succeed -- we can’t succeed -- without it.

You made a promise to defend this country. Let me make one to you: I will listen to you. I will learn from you. And I will endeavor to lead always with your best interest at heart.

The way I see it, that is my job now.
M.G. Mullen
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Headline Highlights

That's not Santa; What not to do in a campaign

Oktoberfest reveler stuck in chimney for 12 hours

BERLIN (Reuters) — A German man who had been drinking heavily at Munich's Oktoberfest beer festival got stuck in a chimney for 12 hours while trying to climb into a friend's apartment, police said Friday.

After finding his friend was not at home, the 27-year-old climbed on to the roof of a neighboring building at about 2 a.m. Thursday and headed for what he thought was a gap in the wall between the two houses.

He found himself sliding almost 30 meters head first into a chimney, a spokesman for Munich police said.

A janitor from the hotel next door eventually heard the man's calls for help and he was rescued at around 2 p.m. by fire brigade officers who knocked a hole into the side of the chimney to free him, the spokesman said.

"Miraculously, he was only slightly injured in the fall, sustaining just grazes and bruising," police said. The man was taken by helicopter to the hospital, where he is being treated for hypothermia, they added.

Clinton laugh, Giuliani phone stir campaign

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - What does Democrat Hillary Clinton's laugh

have in common with Republican Rudy Giuliani's cell phone?

Both are causing waves on the U.S. presidential campaign trail for the leading candidates in each party.

For Clinton, her tendency to burst out in a giggle during some public appearances has generated political tongue-wagging.

The New York senator, often seen as an overly serious candidate, has been showing some personality lately.

She laughed at times during questioning on Sunday morning television shows more than a week ago and then hooted with laughter when asked to respond to a critical comment from a rival candidate at a debate last Wednesday in New Hampshire.

It has become so frequent that Frank Rich, a liberal columnist for The New York Times, said the laugh seemed to be the Clinton campaign's method of heeding complaints that she is "too calculating and controlled" and compared it to Democrat Al Gore's long kiss with his wife Tipper during the Democratic National Convention in 2000.

"Now Mrs. Clinton is erupting in a laugh with all the spontaneity of an alarm clock buzzer," Rich wrote.

Comic Jon Stewart on "The Daily Show" last week likened her to a robot with a robotic voice saying, "Humorous remark detected -- prepare for laughter display."

Presidential scholar Stephen Hess said Clinton's ability to laugh indicated she was becoming more comfortable as a candidate.

Regardless of whether it is genuine or not, "It's terrific that you're able to laugh given what one goes through in a campaign," he said.

Then on the other hand there is the case of Giuliani and his cell phone.

It rang just as Giuliani was addressing the National Rifle Association recently, and he pulled it out of his pocket and chatted to his wife, Judith, in mid-speech.

The incident had some of the NRA members rolling their eyes and even some of Giuliani's supporters thought it was a silly display.

The former New York mayor has since explained the reason why he took the call and denied it was a calculated move -- even though reports circulated he had done it at least once before.

"Quite honestly, since September 11, most of the time when we get on a plane, we talk to each other and just reaffirm the fact that we love each other," he told the Christian Broadcasting Network.

Hess called it a bizarre incident.

"This man is a candidate for president talking to an important group, and it should have his undivided attention and you should at least turn off your cell phone," he said.

Sudoku

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

MAP

KHa-ree-tah