

Concerned citizens stand up to AQI

SGT. KEVIN STABINSKY AND TIM KILBRIDE
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV. AND MND-C PAO

BAGHDAD — An al-Qaeda in Iraq effort to re-establish a position in the Southern Baghdad province town of Hawr Rajab was repulsed when concerned local citizens engaged the terrorists with small-arms fire and called in U.S. Forces for assistance Oct. 2.

While two concerned citizens were wounded in fighting and treated at a nearby hospital, four enemy fighters were killed, an additional two wounded, and multiple insurgent weapons destroyed. U.S. forces detained one of the enemy wounded, and transported the others for medical treatment at Camp Cropper.

Events began mid-afternoon, when concerned citizens contacted Multi-National Division – Center Soldiers after

spotting suspected AQI vehicles in the vicinity of Hawr Rajab. A quick reaction force comprised of Paratroopers from 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division responded to the call for assistance.

The U.S. Soldiers moved into town to find the concerned citizens already engaged in small-arms fire with AQI terrorists hiding in a boys' school. After the brief engagement, the terrorists were observed fleeing the scene in a blue truck.

An air weapons team was called in to pursue the vehicle and later destroyed the truck and killed four terrorists. The engagement also destroyed two AK-47s and a 23 mm anti-aircraft machine gun in the back of the vehicle.

Numerous calls to a tips line by Iraqis in the wake of the incident confirmed the identity of the men as AQI.

Soldiers facilitate school refurbishment, re-opening

MAJ. JOE SOWERS
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — Leaders from the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment joined leaders of the Mada'in Qada to open the refurbished Al-Eslah School in Al-Wehda, east of Baghdad Oct. 1.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the completion of the two-month project. The Al-Wehda Nahia Council forwarded the issue of school refurbishment to 1-15th Inf. Regt. representatives during a council meeting in July. Following a tour and assessment of the school, Soldiers began the work of getting funds approved for the project. Iraqi construction workers began work on the project following the approval of emergency relief funds.

Prior to the refurbishment, the school was virtually falling apart according to Capt. Matthew K. Givens, Columbus, Ga., civil-military operations officer for 1-15th Inf. Regt. The project employed 87 citizens during the two-month period. Workers provided



photo courtesy of 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment

Students accept backpacks from Soldiers at the opening of the Al-Eslah School in Al-Wehda Oct 1. The school opening ended a two-month effort by local leaders and 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment.

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School: Community leaders and Soldiers open refurbished school

From Page 1

electrical and plumbing upgrades as well as installing new doors and windows. Structural and cosmetic improvements to the school were also made.

"This project will affect the local populace in many ways," Givens said. "The largest impact will be that the children of Al-Wehda have an appropriate facility which is conducive to learning."

Security measures were taken into account during the construction process for three full-time security guards. A rest house for the guards was added to the school grounds as part of the refurbishment. Workers heightened and expanded a security wall as well.

"The council was thoroughly pleased with the contractor's work, as were we," Givens said. "This facility has been completely refurbished from its original condition. The contrac-

tor's attention to detail and genuine care for the project is evident and the people responded to his hard work."

After the ribbon was cut to open the school, students were thrilled with their new facility and ran room-to-room looking at the entire school. Teachers expressed their appreciation to council members and Soldiers.

"The school refurbishment far surpassed all of our expectations," Givens said. "The Al-Wehda Nahia Council has been working hand-in-hand with us to get projects accomplished and to improve the security and quality of life for the people of Al-Wehda."

The 1-15 Inf. Regt. is assigned to 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.

Kazakh TOA

Maj. Shaikh-Khasan Zhazykbayev, the incoming Kazakhstani commander, posts the Kazakhstani national colors during a transfer of authority ceremony Sept. 30. The Kazakhstani contingent provides explosive ordnance disposal and water purification support at Forward Operating Base Delta. Since 2003 Kazakhstani soldiers have destroyed more than 4 million pounds of explosives.



214th Fires Brigade photo

THE Dog Face Daily

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

Four-man IED team killed after attack on convoy

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

KALSU — Military tactics are similar to a game of chess. The player must always think three moves ahead in order to be successful.

Paratroopers from 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, laid out strategy the night of Sept. 24 resulting in the death of a four-man improvised explosive device team responsible for detonating a roadside bomb that struck a Coalition convoy.

Beginning two days prior, Paratroopers saw four suspicious individuals near a road not far from Forward Operating Base Kalsu using the AEROSTAT. The AEROSTAT is a helium-filled blimp with a camera that has day and infrared capabilities allowing the user to see 360 degrees to distances of several kilometers.

Following the individuals from the road to a house, the AEROSTAT team sent up coordinates of the house and the location of the men and continued to scan the area for other suspicious activity.

Two days later Spc. Phillip Alderson of Attalla, Al., and Spc. Tell-James Nieuwenhuis of Stapleton, Neb., conducted surveillance of a possible rocket launch site when Nieuwenhuis decided to focus on the coordinates from two nights before.

“We were looking at another area before we switched to the area where the suspected triggermen were located,” Nieuwenhuis said. “After scanning for a few minutes, we heard the blast.”

The blast came from a roadside bomb that struck the lead vehicle of a Coalition convoy. After hearing the blast the camera of the AEROSTAT, controlled by Nieuwenhuis, went into action.

“Once we heard the blast the first thing we did was start to scan the area for any triggermen,” Alderson said.

“It was a very exciting moment to see and know we had a hand in helping find and neutralize a threat...”

— Spc. Phillip Alderson,
AEROSTAT operator

“After a brief scan we found them hiding in a canal. I sent their location to our higher command and they took appropriate action.”

The Brigade Operations Center called attack helicopters to engage and neutralize the enemy threat. The helicopters engaged killing the four insurgents.

“We saw everything happen,” Alderson said. “It was a very exciting moment to see and know we had a hand in helping find and neutralize a threat to Coalition Forces.”

After the initial threat was gone, ground forces moved in to conduct a battle damage assessment while the AEROSTAT continued to watch the area for additional threats.

Ground elements located four AK-47s, four ammunition racks and a cache of 7.62mm ammunition at the site.

“Having helped in the process of eliminating a threat to the security of my fellow Paratroopers is a really good feeling to me,” Alderson said. “It really validates our job here and lets everyone know how vital and important our job with the AEROSTAT is.”



Safety Thought of the Day

M1 Fire Prevention Reminders

- Keep the hull floor clean. Dust, dirt, sand and debris can build up and hide fuel spills and leaks.
- Clean the fire sensors daily in the field. They can't detect a fire if they're dirty. Use lens cleaner, NSN 6850-00-227-1887, and lens tissue, NSN 6640-00-436-5000, to prevent scratching the lens.
- Eyeball all electrical cables for wear and damage from rubbing on sharp metal edges. The most commonly damaged cables are:
 - The cables routed through the opening between the battery box and the engine compartment.
 - The cables routed along the top edge of the power pack.
 - The cables that run along the outside edge of the generator.
 - The generator's cable harnesses and terminals.
- Ensure on-board fire suppression systems are fully operational.
- Practice/rehearse crew fire drills before each mission.

Headline Highlights

Nail in the coffin; strange stones; refusing Iran

Casket sales tip off police to murders

BOGOTA (Reuters) — Colombian police were tipped off Monday to the early morning murders of eight cocaine laboratory workers when relatives of the victims showed up at an undertaker in a southern town asking for coffins.

“We did not find out about this until they came to a funeral home and asked for eight caskets. That drew our attention,” Putumayo province police commander Harold Lara told Reuters.

The province, near Ecuador, is a key cocaine production area where leftist rebels and a mosaic of drug gangs fight over lucrative smuggling routes.

The gunshot murders in the town of Puerto Asis appeared to be part of a robbery in which one trafficking group stole coca base, used to make cocaine, from another, Lara said.

“It was Monday morning and they had been in production all weekend. So there was a lot of base there to be taken,” Lara said.

Stone head mystery leaves area vexed

LONDON (Reuters) — They’ve been left on doorsteps and outside post offices in the dead of night, but no one knows what to make of the mystery of the stone heads.

As many as 20 artfully carved faces, miniature versions of the Easter Island sculptures, have been deposited in sleepy villages across northern Eng-

land in recent weeks, leaving the recipients intrigued and confused.

Each of the stone heads, some measuring up to 45 cm (18 inches) high, is slightly different, but all of them have the same riddle attached, written on a thin blue card.

“Twinkle twinkle like a star, does love blaze less from afar?” it reads, with the word “paradox” written around the points of a star.

While a publicity stunt of some sort is suspected, not unlike the crop circle mysteries that obsessed Britain a decade ago, there are no clues as to who may be leaving the heads. Police, residents and recipients are all non-plussed.

“It appeared last Monday in the early hours of the morning,” said Fiona Gould, the owner of the Forresters Arms Hotel in the village of Kilburn, North Yorkshire.

“I love it. We’ve nicknamed it Forest Lump. We’ve put him on the end of the bar and he gets a pat on the head before everyone goes to the races.”

Valerie Hoyes, who runs the post office in the village of Braithwell, about 40 miles south of Kilburn, discovered hers back in August, but thought nothing of it. She didn’t tell anyone until others came forward.

After the discovery, her husband reviewed security camera footage and caught a glimpse of a man getting out of a car, but his face was indistinguishable and the mystery remained.

Authorities are trying to find out who is leaving the stones.

Don’t look for Bush at Iran university anytime soon

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President George W. Bush is not taking seriously an invitation to visit a university in Iran, unlike his Iranian counterpart, who drew a torrent of criticism last week with a speech at Columbia University in New York.

Bush might have considered the invitation from Ferdowsi University in Mashhad if Iran was a democracy and did not seek the destruction of Israel, the White House said on Tuesday.

“Obviously if Iran was a free and democratic society that allowed its people freedom of expression and wasn’t pursuing nuclear weapons and wasn’t advocating to destroy the country of Israel, the president might consider that invitation,” White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said.

Bush has spoken previously at universities abroad, including in Turkey, Poland and China.

The university in northeastern Iran invited Bush to visit and discuss issues including terrorism and the Holocaust.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s speech at Columbia University last week was met by protests and Iranian politicians were angered at his treatment.

Columbia University President Lee Bollinger, in his introduction, called Ahmadinejad a “petty and cruel dictator” and said his Holocaust denials suggested he was either “brazenly provocative or astonishingly uneducated.”

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday’s puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Distance

meh-sah-feh