

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Delta motorpool hub for coalition of mechanics

SGT. BEN BRODY
MND-C PAO

AL KUT — Forward Operating Base Delta hosts a broad cross-section of the Coalition of the Willing, and the maintenance shop is no different.

At the motor pool tucked in a corner of the sprawling base, soldiers in different uniforms and speaking different languages work together, turning wrenches, soldering joints and generally making broken equipment whole again.

The mechanics come from so many units that they simply refer to themselves as the “Delta Dogs.”

Since many of the Coalition troops use borrowed U.S. military vehicles and equipment, they must learn how to maintain them from U.S. Soldiers.

“The El Salvadorian troops are pretty proficient at maintaining Humvees because the vehicles they use at home are similar,” said Staff Sgt. Melissa Copeland, a shop supervisor with Company B, 168th Maintenance Battalion, which is part of 214th Fires Brigade from Fort Sill, Okla.

“The Georgians are still getting familiarized with the Humvee — it’s pretty different than the Russian trucks they’re used

See **MECHANICS**, Page 3



Sgt. Ben Brody

Georgian army Cpl. Merab Gzirishvili and Staff Sgt. James Buckner, welding noncommissioned officer in charge for the 168th Maintenance Battalion, 214th Fires Brigade, work on a bell for the Georgian’s Eastern Orthodox chapel at FOB Delta Oct. 3.

Doing the Merengue



Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback

Sgt. 1st Class Johanna Wilson, a communications security custodian in the 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, and Chief Warrant Officer James Adams, a network engineer with Specail Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, perform the Merengue during the Hispanic heritage celebration at the Task Force Marne Dining Facility Oct. 7.



Citizens assist Soldiers to decrease violence

MAJ. JOE SOWERS

3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — Concerned citizens brought a large cache to a 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment combat outpost east of Baghdad Oct. 5.

Local citizens brought a cache consisting of 21 mortar rounds, one 57mm projectile, two 100mm projectiles, one 122mm rocket warhead, three PG-7Ms, four PG-7s, and one rocket propelled grenade to Combat Outpost Cashe and turned the items in to Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, currently attached to 3-1st Cav. Regt.

The cavalry regiment officials estimated that more than 1,000 rounds of small arms ammunition and 60 pounds of TNT were turned in, as well.

Concerned Citizens groups are local volunteers that commit to cooperate with Coalition Forces to decrease violence in their communities, much like a neighborhood watch program. Soldiers from Company D have been working to establish Concerned Citizens groups in Jisr Diyala, a town southeast of Baghdad, since July. Currently, two Concerned Citizens groups total approximately 300 volunteers.

Also in the 3-1st Cav. Regt. area of operation on the same day, local citizens informed Iraqi police of a potential improvised explosive device along a major road.

Iraqi police were able to remove the road side bomb and Soldiers from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team secured the explosive for proper disposal.

The 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment is assigned to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Ga.

Ten miles to go



Sgt. Ben Brody

Above: Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and civilians start the Camp Victory Ten Miler Sunday morning. Right: Master Sgt. Charles Friend, Protocol noncommissioned officer in charge for 3rd Infantry Division, finishes the Victory Ten-Miler Sunday morning.



THE Dog Face Daily

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2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry)
4th Brigade Combat Team (Abn.), 25th Infantry Division
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division
214th Fires Brigade
82nd Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

3rd Georgian Brigade demonstrates alertness at checkpoint

214TH FIRES BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FOB DELTA – Coalition partners demonstrated the effectiveness of joint operations Oct. 5 when a suspicious vehicle was searched and its drivers detained.

Soldiers from the 3rd Georgian Brigade, providing security to an engineering unit who were constructing a checkpoint, identified a refrigerated truck and two other vehicles which matched the description of vehicles identified in intelligence reports as being used to transport weapons.

The truck stopped along the highway before reaching the site of the checkpoint while the other two vehicles proceeded north towards Baghdad. The soldiers forwarded the information on the two vehicles to Soldiers of

the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, who were able to stop those vehicles as they were moving north in their area of operations. The Georgian soldiers approached the refrigerated truck, detained its drivers, and then searched the vehicle for suspicious materials, according to 3rd Georgian Brigade liaison officer Capt. Eugene Cossack.

The individuals detained by 3rd HBCT were turned over to the Iraqi National Police, while the individuals detained by the 3GB were released.

Despite not capturing any weapons, the episode demonstrates Georgians' ability to quickly react to intel and to communicate effectively with the division and other units in the Multi-National Division - Center battle space, said Cossack.

"It shows the quick nature of soldiers from the 3rd Georgian Brigade," said Col. Peter Baker, 214th Fires Brigade and Forward Operating Base Delta commander.

"This is an indication that we are going to have a very effective checkpoint, and I expect that to be the case at all the checkpoints.

"It shows that the communications link between the CP, Georgian headquarters and the 214th headquarters is very effective," he said.

About 2,000 Georgian soldiers are deployed to FOB Delta and are charged with stopping the flow of accelerants into Baghdad, reinforcing Iraqi border security operations to prevent the movement of accelerants through Wasit province into Baghdad and improving security conditions in Wasit.

Mechanics: *Maintenance takes a combined effort at FOB Delta*

From Page 1

to," said Copeland, who is from Granbury, Texas. "To speed up the learning curve, we embedded one Georgian mechanic and an interpreter with each repair crew."

Every new gadget or protective plate that comes in from U.S. suppliers must be fitted to the Humvees by whatever means necessary, that means a trip to the welding shop.

Staff Sgt. James Buckner, NCO in charge of the welding shop, has a small team of Americans and Georgians who do all of the welding for FOB Delta.

When Georgian chaplain Father Gabriel came by the shop Oct. 3 looking for a new bell to place atop his chapel, Buckner and his Georgian counterpart, Cpl. Merab Gzirishvili, were happy to oblige.

"Merab knows just about everything about welding – he's a great asset to our team," said Buckner, from Tchula, Miss.

Buckner and Gzirishvili's team recently fitted 200 Hum-

vees with special shields that protect the vehicles' two main electronic interference systems from canceling each other out. Lately they have been busy installing security glass around the Georgians' Humvee turrets.

Away from the flying sparks and rumbling engines, Soldiers run electronics repair shops in quiet, impeccably clean trailers nearby.

"We spent the first few weeks training the Georgians how to fix their radios – now they take the lead diagnosing and fixing problems," said Sgt. 1st Class Kenric Brooks, NCO in charge of the electronics repair section.

"They are really interested in learning about our equipment and learning English," he said.

"There is much work to do here, and it is good practice for us to learn the Humvees and learn English," said Junior Sgt. Oleg Gochashvili, a mechanic with the Georgian Army.

Safety Thought of the Day

Overhead Protection Reminders

- Sandbags should be filled to 75% capacity.
- When emplacing sandbags on roofs, allow for proper drainage of rain water.
- Remember, water saturated sandbags can more than double in weight.
- The roof of an Iraq single floor building is not designed to support much more weight than itself without

additional reinforcement of the substructure.

- When in doubt about a structure's soundness, request a structural assessment from the engineers.
- GTA 07-06-001, Fighting Position Construction; GTA 05-08-001, Survivability Positions; and FM 5-34, Engineers Field Data, offer additional information for proper construction of these projects.

Headline Highlights

Drug bugs; “Big babies” tax break; truth hurts

Customs find beetles stuffed with cocaine

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) — Dutch customs officers found 100 dead beetles stuffed with cocaine while examining a parcel from Peru, Dutch authorities said Thursday.

The little drug couriers' bodies had been slit open and filled with a total of 300 grams of cocaine, with an estimated street-value of 8,000 euros (\$11,270).

“This is a very striking method of smuggling. We have never seen anything like this before,” said government spokesman Kees Nanninga.

Officers decided to open the parcel after scanning it and seeing what appeared to be insects inside.

Uproar over tax break for “big babies”

ROME (Reuters) — Italy's economy minister has sparked uproar by offering “big babies” a tax break if they let go of their mother's apron strings and left home.

More than a third of Italian men over the age of 30 live at home with their parents, a phenomenon blamed on sky-high apartment rents and bleak job prospects as much as a liking for mamma's cooking.

Economy Minister Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa offered to come to the rescue with a 1,000 euro (\$1,411) tax break for 20- and 30-something Italians who rent.

He said the move was aimed at “bamboccioni,” which evokes images of clumsy, overgrown male babies.

“We must send those we call ‘big babies’ out of the house,” the minister told a Senate hearing on the 2008 draft budget.

“With the budget we'll help young people who don't marry and still live with their parents get out of the house.”

The comment was immediately condemned by politicians from all shades of the political spectrum who said young Italians could hardly be blamed for a sputtering economy and high rents.

“This absurd gaffe shows how he's probably not clear how precarious is the situation afflicting an entire generation -- the first generation that has to deal with social conditions worse than those of its parents,” said Francesco Caruso, a communist from Prime Minister Romano Prodi's coalition.

Rome mayor Walter Veltroni, who is likely to lead Italy's left into the next election, said Friday he considered the comment an “unhappy quip” and problems facing the Italy's youth were the country's biggest challenge.

Opposition lawmaker Isabella Bertolini of Forza Italia party urged Prodi to scold his minister for the “offensive epithet.”

Italy is holding a broader debate over its increasingly geriatric society where the best jobs are often occupied by those over 50, squeezing out the young and ambitious.

Many Italians graduate in their late

20s and end up in poorly paid internships or with short-term contracts.

A sharp rise in the cost of living since the introduction of the euro has not helped, and even a 1,000 euro tax break will not be enough to help young Italians stand on their own feet, said Guglielmo Epifani, who heads a major Italian union.

“Renting an apartment 30 years ago cost a quarter of the salary of a worker,” writer Aldo Nove who has penned a book called “My Name is Roberta, I'm 40 years old and earn 250 euros a month,” told Corriere della Sera newspaper.

“Today, it costs more than the salary of a young apprentice. What else is there to say?”

Bar gossip leads to nasty surprise for couple

PRAGUE (Reuters) — A Czech couple who decided to take a DNA test to squash persistent pub gossip and prove that their 10-month-old baby was their own got a nasty surprise.

The couple, from the southeastern town of Trebic, had some doubts about the child as her hair was blonde and they both had dark hair. Fellow drinkers' suspicions got on their nerves.

But the test showed neither of the parents had the same DNA as the baby, Czech news agency CTK reported Wednesday, suggesting a mix-up at the hospital.

Authorities were looking into the case.

Sudoku

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to Saturday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Kilometers

keh-llo-met-trot