

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Sunnis, Shias put differences aside for shot at peace

SGT. J.H. FRENCH
4TH BCT (ABN.), 25TH INF. DIV.

KALSU, Iraq – The government of Musayyib hosted a celebration of security and economic growth at the city's police station Oct. 8.

In a move that could prove to be the turning point in sectarian violence in North Babil, leaders from the predominately Shia city of Musayyib came together with sheiks and representatives of the largely Sunni region of Jurf As Sukhr to share their optimism for the growth and development of the entire area.

With Sunni extremists influence such as the Jaish Al Islami and al-Qa-eda from the North and West, and Shia militias such as the Jaish Al Mahdi rising from the South, the region surrounding Musayyib and Jurf has been a sectarian battleground for years.

With the security celebration in Musayyib, the sectarian tensions seem to be finally coming to an end.

The Chairman of the Musayyib Town Council, Thamir Thaban, and Sheikh Fadel Yousif, a representative of the newly formed Jurf As Sukhr government, gave speeches praising the drop in violence and pledged to continue their work together to bring a lasting peace to the region.

Thaban is a member of the Office of Mahdi Sadr, the political wing of the Jaish Al Mahdi, while Fadel was once a leader of the Jaish Al Islami.

With these two former enemies coming together, they have created a bond and a possible model for all of Iraq to follow to finally bring an end to the sectarian violence which has plagued the fledgling government.



Sgt. Ben Brody

Sgt. Lani Melendez (front) and Sgt. Chris Taitt, both communications technicians with Tactical Assault Command 2, 3rd Signal Company, inspect their satellite dish at Task Force Marne headquarters, Oct. 9.

Signal keeps lines buzzing

SPC. PAUL WHITNEY
3RD SIGNAL CO., 3RD INF. DIV.

"Hey trooper, why's my SIPR down?"

A Sergeant First Class sits at his desk with work to be done, and for the moment his computer equipment has failed him. A young computer technician is summoned to solve the problem.

On his first mission away from Victory Base Complex, the Soldier stares at the downed link, all six months of his school training from Fort Gordon, Ga., having temporarily left him.

This NCO wants his secure internet line back, and the technician momentarily wants to get back to his platoon, where questions about the equipment

are easy to ask, and he can watch and learn from others who have more expertise.

But coping with situations like this are how leaders are born.

The Tactical Assault Command 2, with 2nd Platoon of 3rd Signal Company, 3rd Infantry Division, has 22 Soldiers who run the Joint Network Node, facilitating the division's communication demands. Within TAC 2, Soldiers from many military occupational specialties work together to operate and maintain telephone, computer and satellite systems.

One JNN—the core of the platoon's equipment—is complemented by two Command Post Nodes, one High-Ca-

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STB's Powder Puff team runs over competition



Staff Sgt. Tony Lindback

Above: Capt. Erin "Quiet Storm" Searfross, a division engineer, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, makes a move on two defenders. The STB Powder Puff team dominated the game with a 20-0 win over a team made up of mostly 504th Military Intelligence members Oct. 9. Left: Sgt. Jennifer Cherry, network operator for STB's G6, prevents her opponents from going all the way, but draws a penalty for pulling the shirt.



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Signal: Communications in combat requires 24-hour operations for JNN

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capacity Line-of-Sight array, as well as FM retransmission equipment for warfighters operating in 3rd ID's battlespace.

This requires 2nd Platoon Soldiers to remain flexible, as they can be called upon to work on equipment outside their job description to accomplish the platoon's mission, which states: "On order, Joint Network Node 6702 deploys in support of the 3rd Infantry Division Tactical Assault Command to facilitate Command and Control of the warfighter on the modern battlefield by providing effective, secure, and non-secure communications."

TAC 2's equipment runs twenty-four hours a day—and so do their Soldiers. There is always at least one Soldier monitoring the JNN at all times

throughout the day and night, and since equipment is actively maintained, there aren't many hiccups in service, according to Staff Sgt. Caleb Hancock, a TAC 2 section sergeant.

"Our 24-hour operations are here to maintain the links and make sure everything is in working order," Hancock said.

He described this objective as "setting up our equipment to fulfill subscriber needs," which includes uninterrupted functionality and instant response to any problems that come up.

TAC 2 provides more than Signal service to the Division. Four Soldiers currently serve on Area Defense Operations Cell and another four Soldiers escort Local/Third Country Nationals

to facilitate critical labor on the installation.

"We're Soldiers first," said Staff Sgt. John Johnson, TAC 2's platoon sergeant. "We've been tasked (with the ADOC) to defend our area, and that is precisely what we do. This platoon is all about accomplishing the mission, regardless of what that mission is."

Back at the faulty SIPR connection, the TAC 2 technician remembers that a few days earlier, when Spc. Tony Mayfield, another Soldier from the unit, spent over an hour training him to do quick troubleshooting for the CPN.

The trooper checks the first thing Mayfield recommended, and sure enough, a cable had come loose. The line pops back up instantly, and order is restored to the network.



Safety Thought of the Day

Wet weather driving safety

- Rain, dust, and mud make roads in Iraq as slick and slippery as ice.
- Drivers should be cautioned to slow down and adjust their speed based on road conditions.
- Adjust your driving for the conditions.
- Stopping distances will increase with wet roads, so increase following distances.
- Inspect vehicle tires for worn tread and replace if necessary.
- Inspect windshield wipers for worn or missing wiper blades.
- Keep your windshield clean at all times.

- Rehearse rollover drills before all vehicle operations.
- If you must drive through deep puddles, gently pump your brakes to dry them.



Headline Highlights

A broken heart can be fatal; one expensive kiss

A bad relationship can cause heart attack?

LONDON (Reuters) — It has been the stuff of great romantic novels and blockbuster films. Doctors have long suspected it. A study of 9,000 British civil servants has at last established it is possible to die of a 'broken heart'.

The study, reported in the Archives of Internal Medicine, found the stress and anxiety of hostile, angry relationships can boost the risk of developing heart disease. Chances of a heart attack or chest pain rose by 34 percent compared to people on good terms with a spouse or partner.

"A person's heart condition seems to be influenced by negative intimate relationships," researchers wrote. "We showed that the negative aspects of close relationships...are associated with coronary heart disease."

Other research has shown more social connections can mean a healthier life -- the "protective effect" -- but few studies have looked at how close friendships or marriages affect health, said Roberto De Vogli, an epidemiologist at University College London, who led the study.

The researchers studied civil servants who completed questionnaires about negative aspects of their relationships -- which included a spouse or close friend -- between 1989 and 1990 or between 1985 and 1988.

BAD EXPERIENCES "REPLAYED"

The questions asked whether people had emotional support, a chance to

"A person's heart condition seem to be influenced by negative intimate relationships."

— researchers,
Archives of Internal Medicine

talk with someone about problems or whether they could count on a partner or close friend for something as simple as a ride to the grocery store, De Vogli said.

The team followed up over a 12-year period and found that people who reported that arguments, criticism and other types of conflict were common had a 34 percent greater risk of heart attacks or chest pain.

When the researchers stripped out risk factors such as obesity, smoking, drinking and family history, the chance of a heart attack was still 23 percent higher, De Vogli said.

"If you have good people around it is good for your health, he said in a telephone interview. "If you have negative people around it is much worse for your health."

The study did not look at whether a bad relationship played a role in the severity of a heart attack.

"It seems clear from this analysis that no matter if positive aspects of social relationships are having a significant protective effect, the negative impact seems far stronger," De Vogli said.

"People continually replay negative

experiences."

"Passionate" kiss lands art lover in court

MARSEILLE, France (Reuters) — A self-professed art lover stood trial on Tuesday accused of damaging a \$2-million painting by kissing it while wearing red lipstick.

The deputy prosecutor in the southern French city of Avignon accused the defendant, Sam Rindy, of "savagery" for having left a lipstick smear on the work by U.S. artist Cy Twombly, and demanded the court fine her 4,500 euros (\$6,320).

The picture's owner, Yvon Lambert, wants \$2 million in damages and a further 33,400 euros that he says is needed to pay for the restoration work.

Rindy, an artist of Cambodian origin, has said she was "overcome with passion" when she saw the painting hanging on a gallery wall in July 2007. "This woman is profoundly upset. She was overcome by an emotion that she could not tame," her lawyers, Patrick Gontard Jean-Michel Ambrosino, told the court, describing the kiss as an "act of love."

Lambert's lawyer rejected this line of defense, saying: "In love, there need to be two consenting people."

Rindy, who is in her 30s, told reporters earlier this year that she thought her lipstick had improved the white, untitled painting.

The court will deliver its verdict on November 16.

Sudoku

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Weapons

es-lee-Hah