

THE

# Dog Face Daily

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*Serving Task Force Marne*

## Detainees released in Ramadan goodwill gesture

MND-C PAO

BAGHDAD — Eid al-Fitr, the three-day feast that follows a month of fasting during Ramadan, is a time of goodwill, charity, and mercy.

This year, Coalition Forces commemorated the Eid with a release of detainees, part of a bid to encourage national reconciliation and build public support for the Iraqi government.

Historically, prisoner releases during Ramadan and the Eid are goodwill gestures in the Middle East.

Following that tradition, 20 men were released in a ceremony held Oct. 11 by the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division at Forward Operating Base Kalsu.

"This is a very important religious occasion for us. It is one of our honored traditions. It signals the end of bad blood between tribes. Everyone begins to put their differences aside," said Sheik Mahdi Nasr al-Faisal al-Johaishi.

"This is the time we begin working together for a better future. With this prisoner release, Coalition Forces are sharing in our traditions and our time of happiness," al-Johaishi said.

One element of the release was new this year, crafted to encourage governance and capacity building at the local level. Under a system called the "guarantor program," tribal Sheiks and representatives present at the event accepted responsibility for the released men and their future actions, pledging to keep them from engaging in criminal acts.

"After many years, the Coalition Forces are finally working with the Sheiks to help establish security," Johaishi said.

His sentiments were echoed by another tribal attendee, Hadi Ali Hussein al-Dolaimi.

"Coalition Forces need to work directly with the tribes more often. The first level of any type of government is the tribes," al-Dolaimi said. "No one wants a unified government more than us."

Elsewhere in Multi-National Division - Center's area of operation, 17 individuals were released in another ceremony held at Camp Striker with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), out of Fort Drum, N.Y., another BCT that makes up Task Force Marne, commanded by the 3rd Infantry Division.

The mayor of Mahmudiyah, Muayad Fadhil al-Ameri, who was on hand, praised the positive implications of the event.



Sgt. J. H. French

Sheik of Sheiks, Ali Omran Al Shimari leaves a detainee release ceremony at Forward Operating Base Kalsu. In the background, Maj. Rick Williams says good-bye to one of the policemen who attended the release ceremony.

"It is clear evidence that Coalition Forces are concerned with the welfare of the people of Iraq," al-Ameri said.

Major Brett Kessler, the 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div., staff proponent for reconciliation initiatives, explained the principle behind releasing men detained for various acts against Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces.

"We aren't going to make people change their minds about us, but we can keep motivating them to change their behavior," Kessler said. "These motivators will continue to see citizens fighting extremists and not Coalition or Iraqi security forces."

The prisoner releases are part of a joint venture between the Government of Iraq and Multi-National Force - Iraq, called Operation Lion's Paw.

The effort has focused on expanding reintegration programs for detainees upon release, and assisting them with re-entering society. Iraqi Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi said the operation is a step towards reconciliation.

"I am very pleased with the efforts of the Coalition and all of the positive things they are doing to prepare the detainees for release," Hashimi said.

"Success will be achieved when we break the cycle of extremist violence and find ways to reintegrate former detainees into the fabric of the new Iraq."

# 450 children in Al-Juburi receive toys



Photo courtesy of 489th Civil Affairs Battalion

Capt. James Rivenbark, from Knoxville, Tenn., with the Civil Affairs Team 911, 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, Knoxville, Tenn., hands out toys to children in Al-Juburi Oct. 14.

**SPC. BEN HUTTO**  
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — The children of Al-Juburi received 899 boxes of donated toys and clothes in celebration of Eid al-Fitr, the feast marking the end of Ramadan, Oct. 8.

Civil Affairs Team 911, 489th Civil Af-

fairs Battalion, out of Knoxville, Tenn., currently attached to the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, delivered the toys and clothes to approximately 450 children.

"We, as civil affairs, are often given the privilege of providing these small gestures of kindness in a country that has had more than its fair share of

hardships," said Maj. James Gregory F. Lester, from Knoxville, Tenn., the team chief for Team 911.

Lester said his team is always enthusiastic to interact and build relations with the Iraqi people.

The Al-Juburi Village, which is predominately Sunni, is located in an area where extremists are attempting to incite sectarian violence and tension. The team's hope, Lester said, was that a donation, no matter how small, would help influence good will with the people of Al-Juburi.

The three days following Ramadan are traditionally festive occasions in Islamic communities, where people feast and exchange small gifts.

The toys and clothes were all donated from U.S. citizens who mailed the items to the 1-15 Inf. Regt. at their own expense.

The average cost to mail one of the boxes was \$36.

Lester hoped the mission could enable the children to see U.S. Soldiers in a different light.

"We hope that someday when one of these small children grow up maybe they'll tell their children 'I remember when the Americans came to our village and handed out toys after Ramadan,'" Lester said.

The 1-15 Inf. Regt. is assigned to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March.

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## THE Dog Face Daily

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# 'Miracle mom, baby' survive because of team effort

214TH FIRES BRIGADE

FOB DELTA – Soldiers from the 948th Field Surgical Team and Company C, 26th Brigade Support Battalion, joined forces Oct. 15 to provide lifesaving care to an Iraqi woman and her unborn child.

The woman was brought to Forward Operating Base Delta's front gate by her mother and brother after suffering severe burns to more than 50 percent of her body, said Maj. Matthew Bacchetta, a surgeon with the 948th FST from Southfield, Mich.

The medics brought her to the FOB's trauma bay to have her wounds cleaned and dressed. The medics also monitored her unborn baby and found it to be active with a good heart rate, Bacchetta said.

The medics were able to sedate the patient to wash the wounds and remove the dead skin without intubating her, said Bacchetta.

"The anesthesia was one of the key steps to keeping the baby alive," said Bacchetta. "It was a very good team effort."

Because of the severity of the mother's burns, she was evacuated by Company C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, Medevac to the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad to be seen by the theater obstetrician.

After about one hour at the 28th CSH, the baby went into fetal distress and an emergency delivery was done.

"It was the only chance the baby had to survive," said Bacchetta. "They were very lucky. Even in a place that is well

prepared, it's tough to get a mother and baby through this type of situation.

"This type of injury is usually a lethal injury for mother and child," he said.

The mom received the burns the day prior to arriving at FOB Delta while cooking bread for Ramadan. The second degree burns were caused by flames from a gas leak and covered her arms, abdomen, and legs, said Capt. David Titley, the 948th executive officer and a licensed practical nurse.

"There's about a five percent survival rate from this type of injury in this country and a 50 percent survival rate in the U.S.," said Titley. "This is a miracle mom and a miracle baby."

The baby was born healthy and the mom was alert one week after the event, said Titley, who got to see and hold the baby during an unrelated visit to the 28th CSH. The mother has received at least three successful skin grafts and is awaiting another from a community doctor in Baghdad.

"We were able to guide her and her family to get care in their own system," said Capt. Chris Mullen, the 948th emergency medical treatment officer in charge.

The patient, her mother and brother were very appreciative of the care received from the U.S. military medics, said Titley.

"If anyone has an injury that threatens life, limb or eyesight, the task force medics will treat it," said Titley.

The 948th FST has seen five burn patients since arriving at FOB Delta in September.

## Safety Thought of the Day

### Weapon Modifications

- There is no approved Modification Work Order (MWO) for converting the M16 to an M4 or for converting the M240 to the M240B.
- No MWO has been issued authorizing the use of off the shelf aiming lasers with the M9 pistol.
- There are no MWOs authorizing the painting of weapons.
- Unauthorized modifications to small arms weapons may cause damage to the weapon and/or death or injury to the operator.
- Unauthorized modifications may cause the weapon to become unavailable in critical situations because of stoppages, malfunctions, or the weapon

becoming non-operational.

- Reference Ground Precautionary Message (GPM) 07-016, 031919Z May 07, for further information.



## Headline Highlights

# Jaws attacks; witty Brits; punch drunk Padre

## Woman fights off shark attack

SYDNEY (Reuters) - An Australian woman fought off a Great White Shark Monday after it knocked her into the water from her surf ski at a popular tourist beach.

"I thought this is it, he is going to grab my leg. I had my blade (paddle) and I just kept punching, punching, punching," Linda Whitehurst told local television.

Whitehurst suffered only small lacerations on her right arm in the fight with the 2.5-metre (eight-foot) shark, before scrambling back onto her surf ski and paddling to shore at Byron Bay's famous surfing beach "The Pass" on Australia's east coast.

"The shark circled the kayak (surf ski) and then swam directly at her," police inspector Owen King told local radio.

"She was able to (defend herself from) the shark by striking it in the mouth with the paddle from the kayak. The shark then took off and swam away from her."

Whitehurst was about 150 meters (450 feet) from shore.

Boats patrolled the area looking for the shark and people were advised not to go in the water. The beach reopened a few hours later.

Lifeguards said the attack was the second incident involving a Great White in less than a week.

"There was a similar incident last Tuesday when a man in a kayak was menaced by a Great White, about eight

to 10 feet long, at Wategos Beach, just the next beach around from where this woman was attacked today," said lifeguard Stephen Leahy.

The attack was the second in Australia in three days.

A 31-year-old man was bitten by a bronze whaler shark on Saturday while spearfishing off a charter boat on the Great Barrier Reef.

## Keeping their wits about them

LONDON (Reuters) - Playwright Oscar Wilde, who even managed to mutter on his death bed "Either those curtains go or I do," was named in a poll Monday as Britain's greatest wit.

He captured 20 percent of the vote, just two points ahead of comedian Spike Milligan, who had engraved on his tombstone the epitaph "I told you I was ill."

In the Top 10 of famous wits, war-time leader Winston Churchill made it to number five for his notorious put-downs.

When accused by Labor parliamentarian Bessie Braddock of being drunk, he said: "Bessie, you're ugly. And tomorrow morning I will be sober but you will still be ugly."

The playwright Noel Coward comes in at number seven, saying of humor: "Wit ought to be a glorious treat like caviar. Never spread it about like marmalade."

Former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, more renowned for her steely personality than her roustabout

humor, was the highest ranked woman in the poll, taking 12th place.

She once quipped: "Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't."

The poll of 3,000 comedy fans was conducted to mark the launch of a new UKTV digital television channel called Dave under the banner "The home of witty banter."

## Drunken priest punches cop, jailed

MONTERREY, Mexico (Reuters) - A Mexican priest briefly ended up behind bars after punching a policeman who caught him driving drunkenly through the streets of the northern city of Monterrey.

Priest Manuel Raul Ortega, who was not wearing clerical dress but was clutching a prayer book when captured, launched himself at the traffic cop who pulled him over earlier this week.

"The individual became very violent because they were going to tow away his car. He attacked a policeman and was taken away," said transit department spokesman Hector Lozano on Thursday.

Ortega's papers identified him as a priest. He was released a few hours after his arrest after paying the fines for his offenses.

Monterrey and Mexico City are in the midst of a tough new drive to clamp down on widespread drunken driving after tequila and beer-fueled lunches and parties.

## Sudoku

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

## ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

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