

THE

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Serving Task Force Marne



Courtesy photo

The blast from the M109A6 Paladin creates a huge cloud of dust during a registration Oct. 16 at Forward Operating Base Delta.

Ready Aim FIRE!

Calibration, registration keeps big guns on target

214TH FIRES BRIGADE

FOB DELTA — The artillery's mission is to provide precision long-range fire for maneuver units on the battlefield.

The decisive fire can be from cannons, rockets or missiles. To keep the guns on target, units perform calibration and registration. FOB Delta

See ARTILLERY, Page 3

Mortar platoon cares for burn victim, nets al-Qaeda

STAFF SGT. SEAN RILEY
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — Unlike movie sequels, Operation Shiloh II was a huge success.

Operating on tips from local citizens near the town of Al Bawi on Oct. 13 during Operation Shiloh I, the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment mortar platoon returned to the area and arrested an al-Qaeda member in Operation Shiloh II, Oct. 15.

According to Capt. Chris Pearson, from Baton Rouge, La., the mortar platoon leader, a man in the area confided in the troops on Oct. 13 and stated that his family had been threatened. After the man was identified as an al-Qaeda member, the platoon went back Oct. 15th to detain him.

*"If (we) build that trust
... we will start to make
contacts so we can help
them in the future."*

— Capt. Chris Pearson
mortar platoon leader

However, first the platoon needed to pay a visit to someone else. During the platoon's previous mission Oct. 13, the platoon encountered a mute, 60-year-old man with severe burns to his leg. The platoon rendered medical assistance after talking with the family, said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lucas, from South Dayton, N.Y., the NCO in charge of the mortar platoon.

The man's wounds had not been treated in over three months.

"The family was afraid to go to Baghdad for assistance," Lucas said.

The platoon cared for the elderly man's wounds by cleaning and dressing the burns. When the platoon prepared to return for Shiloh II, Lucas made sure his medic packed special items for burn care.

"When we returned the second time, we changed his bandages and applied some burn cream to help him heal," said Lucas. "Through an interpreter, we left instructions with the man's wife as to when and how to change his dressings and apply more cream."

Pearson believes taking time for the people of the community builds accep-

See MORTAR, Page 3

'If I had to come again, I surely would'

a letter from a Coalition soldier

MAJ. CARLOS ALBERTO TEJADA MURCIA
EL SALVADORAN ARMY

My name is Carlos Alberto Tejada Murcia, I'm an army major, engineer officer, originally from San Salvador, El Salvador. I am 43 years old, married to Argentina de Tejada and we have three kids: Carlos Sebastian, 16, Carlos Enrique, 14, and Maria Fernanda, 12.

So far I have been in the military 21 years and 10 months. I entered military school in 1986, got commissioned in December 1989 and have attended several courses with the U.S. Army, including both basic and advance engineer officer course, a sapper course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and three years ago attended Command and General Staff Course at Fort Leavenworth.

Currently, I'm in charge of CIMIC (Civilian Military Center), the office that deals with all types of construction in Wassit Province, where Kut is located. I receive all project requests from local authorities, both provincial and city councils, as well as Sheiks and ordinary citizens from all walks of life.

As of right now, I'm engaging the University of Wassit, secondary and primary schools, health clinics, roads, irrigation and purification water systems, electrical grids, etc, just to mention the most required basic services.

I have participated in this sort of missions before.

I worked in a Peace Observation Mission with the United Nations, UNIKOM, in charge of monitoring the

Kuwait-Iraq border after the first Gulf War.

And just like anybody else, a little tension did run through my mind, but you know I had the necessary tools to embark, had good training, good leadership and the support from my country and, of course, my family.

My first stop in theater was Kuwait, where additional equipment and training took place, especially counter IED measures as well as cultural awareness — five days in total.

From there, we flew on a military plane to this Forward Operating Base, or as we call it, Camp Delta. We did the hand over from the previous rotation and took charge of the responsibilities assigned for this mission.

The interaction with other members of the Coalition Forces has been formidable; I met Polish, Georgians, Khazakastans, Bosnians, U.S. forces, both civilian and military.

And for the locals, because I have to deal with Sheiks and Iraqis in general, I want to point out that the majority are kind, humble people. And just like in any society there are, of course, rotten seeds.

I have a great feeling when someone can bring hope to this area. Every time we finish a project, hand out humanitarian aid, a wheelchair, the expression on their faces is of gratitude. And if just for an instant we can make that sad face smile, that alone is a big reward.

Just like the training received in El Salvador from U.S. troops stationed in

Honduras, I and some of my fellow officers dealing with the reconstruction process also attended additional training in Camp Victory, Baghdad.

You can imagine the thrill of going there. We flew on a UH-64 Black Hawk helicopter to Baghdad and came back on a UH-57 Chinook helicopter, awesome rides as you can imagine and to add to that thrill, we flew at night.

Every time you walk outside the camp, you get the chills. There is danger outside these walls, you know, but we're soldiers and that's why we train so hard, to step out and be ready for any contingency.

So far no harm has come our way.

I miss my family, as I'm sure every soldier around the world that is deployed does, but my family knows that this is a good, just cause.

Their support is essential; just knowing that you are in their prayers is enough, just waiting to see them again.

The reason I volunteered is simple: there is a country in need. These people are going through a terrible burden. As you probably know, my country suffered for 12 years, going through that terrible cycle in our history. My country needed a helping hand, and your country, the United States, gave us that helping hand.

I think that if we can give just a small token of that solidarity back to that friend, it is so very worth it. So I know the feeling and if I can heal some of that, then count me in. If I had to come again, I surely would.

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Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

ARTILLERY: *Delta Soldiers keep weapons ready, steady*

From Page 1

conducted a registration Oct. 16 to check the accuracy of its big guns.

"Registration is done to account for nonstandard conditions like wind and tube conditions to ensure we are firing accurately," said 1st Lt. Derrick Zanders, Company B, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Ft. Stewart, Ga.

Although registration is usually done when the artillery weapons are not shooting accurately or when one or more of the five requirements for accurate predicted fires are not being met, the FOB Delta registration was done to verify the accuracy of its M109A6 Paladins.

The five requirements are target location, firing unit location, ammunition and weapons information, meteorological data, and computational procedures.

For the cannon fire directions specialists, the registration allowed them to learn more about their job.

"I got to learn about deflection and quadrant corrections," said Spc. Justin Toney, a cannon fire directions specialist with Company B, 1-9th FA Regt. This was Toney's first registration. "I also learned how the data from the guns allows you to get a more precise shot group when attacking the enemy."

The goal for the artilleryman is to hit the target with the first round and use the additional rounds to ensure the target's destruction, said Spc. Elijah Payne, another cannon fire directions specialist.

In addition to the registration, the unit also performed a calibration of the Paladins which checks the effectiveness of the propellant when a new lot is used.



Staff Sgt. Sean Riley

A 1-15th Inf. Regt. mortar platoon Soldier enters a resident of a town near Al Bawi into the handheld interagency identity detection equipment system database.

MORTAR: *Platoon protects Iraqis*

From Page 1

tance for the Soldiers' presence in their town.

"If (we) build that trust that we're not here to start trouble," Pearson said, "we will start to make contacts so we can help them in the future by getting the insurgents."

Pearson feels the Oct. 15 patrol helped, especially after the aid his platoon provided the man.

"By us coming specifically back to him shows we care about them," he said. "It shows we are here to help, not just provide security."

After treating the man's burns the platoon tended to more serious business and

arrested the al-Qaeda member.

Along with the arrest, the Soldiers searched 13 buildings. But their main objective in the area isn't just looking for bad guys.

Pearson said they patrol the area to meet the residents.

"We started meeting with the locals to figure out who lived where and who owned what," said Pearson. "It's a small town south of the COP with 20 to 30 Shia and Sunni families. Just from talking with them, we found they actually get along with each other."



Safety Thought of the Day

Fatigue

Some signs of fatigue are:

- Inability to control your eyes (they keep shutting and going out of focus)
- Having disconnected thoughts, can't concentrate
- Mumbling or mixing up your words
- Feeling irritable and easily angered
- Drifting from your lane, or hitting the curb

NOTE: Micro-sleeps (nodding off) can last 3-5

seconds — how far did you travel down the road?

The only way to beat fatigue is to:

- Catch up on your sleep debt — get a few early nights
- Improve your diet habits so that your blood sugar stays more constant
- Get into regular sleep and wake patterns
- Understand your personal circadian rhythm and plan your work day accordingly

Headline Highlights

Pentagon error; chocolate Jesus; unliked Brits

Pentagon's recording error

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The U.S. Defense Department said on Thursday it was awarding what might have been its richest-ever single contract at \$24 billion, but it erred by a factor of 1,000.

The supposedly huge deal, listed in the Pentagon's daily contract digest, was said to have gone to Boeing Co for engineering support of the Air Force's KC-135 refueling fleet.

"No one at Boeing knows of a contract of anything of this magnitude," said Forrest Gossett, a company spokesman in St. Louis.

The Air Force referred callers to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, where the contract was handled. A base spokesman, Ralph Monson, said the real deal was for \$24 million — a difference of more than \$23.9 billion.

"The correct figure was \$24 million," he told Reuters, adding three extra zeros had been tacked on by mistake. "No clue how," he said after checking with the base's bean counters. "Thanks for bringing it to our attention."

Chocolate Jesus rises again

NEW YORK (Reuters) — A life-size chocolate sculpture of a naked Jesus will finally be displayed in New York starting in late October, seven months after an outcry by Roman Catholics forced a different gallery to cancel its exhibition.

The chocolate Jesus will be joined by sculptures of several fully clothed saints, but the Catholic League for Re-

ligious and Civil Rights said it will not protest because, unlike before, there are no plans to put the "anatomically correct" Jesus in public view during Holy Week. The Proposition gallery in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood will present "Chocolate Saints ... Sweet Jesus," an exhibition timed to coincide with All Saints' Day on November 1. The show will run Oct. 27 to Nov. 24.

Back in March, the chocolate Jesus by artist Cosimo Cavallaro was to be exhibited in a street-level window of the Roger Smith Lab Gallery in Midtown Manhattan, giving casual passers-by a view of Jesus's private parts.

Protests, including a call to boycott the affiliated Roger Smith Hotel, forced the gallery to scrap the showing.

"We still don't approve but the conditions have changed," said Kiera McCaffrey, spokeswoman for the Catholic organization.

The new exhibition will take place indoors in a neighborhood full of art galleries, she said.

Images on the Proposition gallery's Web site (<http://www.theproposition.com/wp/chocolate-saints-sweet-jesus/>) show the work suspended in air, depicting Jesus as if on the cross.

A gallery statement said Cavallaro was raised as a Catholic altar boy and questioned church precepts but always held a fondness for Holy Communion.

"Remembering the mystical/transcendental quality and rushes of memory associated with the Catholic wafer received during Holy Communion, he recalls equating that ritual of ecstasy to his own experience of chocolate," the statement said.

Brits less popular after Europeans get to know them

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — A poll of Europeans showed people of different nationalities liked each other more after getting to know each other, except in the case of the British — who became less popular.

A project organized by the Notre Europe think tank brought together 362 citizens from 27 EU states for two days of deliberations in Brussels last weekend. They were asked their views on a range of issues before and after the event, including how much they liked or disliked German, French, Polish, Italian, British and Spanish people.

The Spaniards were most popular with 78.6 percent approval at the end of the weekend. The Poles the least with 67 percent.

But all nationalities gained in popularity, bar the British who went from a 70.3 percent approval rating at the start of the weekend to 68.1 percent by the end.

Professor James Fishkin of Stanford University in the United States, who developed the polling technique used, urged some caution about the findings.

"I would be careful about drawing too much inference about people disliking the British -- it's small and not significant, but you know, it is what it is, and it did happen that way."

Fishkin said he did not think France's defeat by England in the rugby World Cup semi-final in between the two polls had had an influence, even though the number of French participants in the survey was disproportionately high.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to Saturday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Food

eh-kil