

Iraqis, CF capture key extremists

MND-C PAO

CAMP VICTORY — Shia extremists in Iskandariyah and Haswah are being arrested by Iraqi police and Coalition Forces so fast that militia leaders are in jail before the “street” knows to stop giving tips on them.

Intelligence generated by operations has outpaced human intelligence, according to Col. Michael Garrett, commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division. “This has never happened before,” he said.

A great deal of the benefit comes from the partnership between the Iraqi police and Coalition Soldiers. Where-

“In response to the reduction of the extremist threats, many more citizens have come forward with information.”

— Lt. Col. Valery C. Keaveny Jr.
3-509th PIR commander

as once there was concern that Shia extremists had infiltrated the police, in these areas the Iraqi police are hitting the extremists hard. Their cooperation means that once-safe areas, like

mosques, now offer no shelter to the militant extremists.

A hand grenade attack on a patrol of paratroopers Oct. 20 demonstrates the change. The grenade exploded near soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th BCT (Abn.), 25th Inf. Div., while they were patrolling Iskandariyah. Instead of driving them away, the grenade drew their pursuit.

The men of the 509th PIR tracked their attacker to the Iskandariyah Husaniyah Mosque. Coalition Forces did not enter the mosque, but requested instead that Iraqi police search it.

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203rd BSB cook promises Army three more years

SGT. NATALIE ROSTEK
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — October 17 marked a significant date for Spc. Danielle Cobbert.

With her five-year contract nearing its end, Cobbert, a food service specialist in the 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, raised her right hand and made a commitment to the Army and to continue her education.

Cobbert is currently going to school through the Army and said she needs more time to get her degree.

“The Army is not just a job, it’s helping me get my computer programming degree,” she said. “The Army provides great tuition assistance and when it is time (to leave the Army) I will have something to fall back on.”

Cobbert said she joined the military because she felt she wasn’t ready for college after high school.

“I didn’t think college was for me,” she said. “I wasn’t in the right frame of mind so I did the next best thing and joined the Army. The Army would

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Sgt. Natalie Rostek

Spc. Danielle Cobbert, from Birmingham, Ala., a food service specialist in the 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, re-enlists in the back of a refrigeration truck Oct. 17 at FOB Hammer.

Donations during deployment possible with CFC-Overseas

STAFF SGT. TONY M. LINDBACK
MND-C PAO

CAMP VICTORY – Already changing the world with their presence in Iraq, Task Force Marne servicemembers have another way to make a difference by donating to the Combined Federal Campaign – Overseas.

The CFC-O is the only authorized charitable organization able to solicit federal employees in the workplace, and has been giving those donations to various charities since getting authorization to do so from President John F. Kennedy in the early 1960s.

With the CFC receiving more than \$271 million in donations for 2006, it is hoped to continue that success with the annual drive this year.

Donating to the CFC does not mean giving up a chunk of hard earned money without having a say in how that money is used.

There are many options available for donating to include selecting what charities will receive funds.

Conversely, it is also an option to simply donate and have the CFC select where the money can best be used.

It is not required that servicemembers donate to the CFC, but there are many reasons some choose to.

Sgt. Nefertiti Williams, the Marne Visitor's Bureau administration non-commissioned officer, said "I've been donating now for almost seven years because, in a time of need, I would hope the CFC would be there to help me out. So I see it as my little token to help other people out."

Lt. Col. Randolph Swansiger, deputy Staff Judge Advocate, 3rd Infantry Division, has been donating to the CFC since he was a private in 1982. Of course, he was unable to donate during

his break in service, but started again when he returned to active duty.

"I took care of three quadriplegics when I was at Arizona State, and one student who had cerebral palsy," he said. "I became close friends with them and have donated to the Spinal Cord Association and the Cerebral Palsy Foundation."

Pvt. Jacqueline Murphy, a transportation movement request manager for the G4 section, 3rd Inf. Div., said she donates as well.

Murphy donates to a charity to help the victims of child abuse – something to which she is sympathetic.

Swansiger said he feels good about the way the CFC operates and how it makes the process for donating to a cause, or causes.

"I just think it makes it easy to give," said Swansiger. "It's not complicated. You have the form – you can see all the organizations that are out there

– I think it makes it easy for you to do the right thing, to make a donation, feel good about what you're doing, and to pick good charities that you believe in."

Williams said, "The CFC makes the process pretty easy for us. We just get the booklet and it has all the information in it. So it's pretty simple on our end. It's them the CFC) doing all the work. We're just providing the money to make it happen."

The drive for donations has an end date of Dec. 14.

Each unit has been tasked to have a CFC representative to aid in the disbursement of information and collection of donations.

The donations will be taken in the form of payroll deductions for an amount chosen by the donor.

For more information about the CFC servicemembers can visit www.opm.gov/cfc.



Native American Indian Heritage

1st IPR Oct. 31



WHO: MND-C Equal Opportunity Office

WHAT: Native American Indian Heritage Program

WHEN: Nov. 25, 3:30-4 p.m.

WHERE: TF MARNE DFAC

WHY: To solicit support for the upcoming Observance. The MND-C Equal Opportunity Office is looking for **VOLUNTEERS** for this observance.

***You do not have to be Native American to participate.**



1st IPR: Oct. 31

Time: 2 p.m.

EO Office, Bldg 51M, Trailer # 2

Please come by!

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rufus.lewis@iraq.centcom.mil,
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 720th Military Police Battalion
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CAPTURE: *Iraqi police, Coalition Forces capture key Shia extremists*

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Soon, Iraqi police arrived to conduct the search for the assailant. What they found, not in the mosque but in a nearby house, was the headquarters of a Shia extremist cell.

Inside they found homemade and commercial explosives, and a hoard of military gear. The stash included night vision gear and rifles, advanced body armor and armor piercing weapons. It also included materials that could be used to make improvised explosive devices and suicide vests, including pounds of ball bearings.

Only days later in Haswah, another joint Iraqi police and 509th PIR patrol came under small arms fire Oct. 23. The Iraqi police with the patrol surrounded the mosque and arrested a man who was one of the most wanted criminals in the area. They also found Iraqi army and police uniforms.

The 509th PIR element of the patrol

chased down armed men in a gray Mercedes. When they took them, they captured pistols, Kalashnikov rifles, and incendiaries.

The man behind the effort is Lt. Col. Valery C. Keaveny Jr., commander of 3rd Battalion, 509th PIR.

"Local citizens and Iraqi Security Forces, tired of the selfishness and brutality of the Shia extremists, have provided volumes of detailed intelligence on the terrorist activities and personalities," Keaveny said. "This information and aggressive operations by the ISF and Coalition Forces led to the capture of many Shia terrorist leaders and followers in Iskandariyah and Haswah."

Meanwhile, the Iraqi police at the mosque finished their search. They turned over a 120mm mortar round converted to an IED, a number of rocket-propelled grenades, six of which were Iranian, launchers, mortars, body armor, grenades and more rifles.

Each of these finds produces more

intelligence, driving more operations. On Oct. 2 the battalion arrested their number seven most wanted. On Oct. 12 they got their number one man, and their number eight. On Oct. 15 they took number nine, and two days later, another individual who had just entered the top ten that week. The man arrested in the mosque raid in Haswah was the number two target.

With these relentless offensive operations and diminished presence of extremist threats, the civilians in the area are no longer in hiding and now feel empowered to step forward and help.

"In response to the reduction of the extremist threats, many more citizens have come forward with information and the ISF have increased their operations," Keaveny said. "Local Iraqis, Shia and Sunni, welcome the increased security, the promise of a better future, and the hope that they have gained with the obvious loss of control on the part of the Shia extremists."

RE-UP: *3rd HBCT Soldier re-enlists in back of refrigeration truck*

From Page 1

pay for me to go to college when I was ready."

While her passion is computer programming, Cobbert explained her decision to join as a food service specialist was based primarily on the bonuses the Army offered for the job at the time.

Cobbert also explained the Army gave her a choice of her next duty station following her redeployment scheduled for June 2008. She plans to move to Fort Lee, N.J.

"I discussed it with my husband and we both like the east coast. We decided

we both want to stay there," Cobbert said.

The re-enlistment ceremony took place in a refrigeration truck because Cobbert said she just needed a stage, and being a cook, the truck was a logical and available solution.

"I wanted it to have a stage-like appearance," Cobbert said. "That way I can have the audience all around me and they could all see me re-enlist."

Cobbert said she does not know at this time if she will make the military a career, but while serving she will utilize the Army's help in getting her degree in computer programming.

To some leaders in the battalion,

Cobbert's departure would be a huge loss to the Army.

Command Sgt. Maj. Stevie Burch, from Sylvester, Ga., 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, recalled the first time he spoke to Cobbert and told her she would be working in the Post Exchange on FOB Hammer instead of in the dining facility.

"She had a 'git 'r done' attitude right from the start," Burch said. "When I told her she would be working in the PX, she told me 'whatever it is you want me to do, I'll get it done sergeant major.' She came here ready for advancement and we will be sending her to the promotion board real soon."

Safety Thought of the Day

Seven Common Accident Causes

- Taking Shortcuts
- Being Over-confident
- Starting a Task with Incomplete Instructions
- Poor Housekeeping
- Ignoring Safety Procedures
- Mental Distractions
- Failure to Pre-Plan



3RD INF. DIV. 90TH BIRTHDAY EVENTS

Nov. 17
- Truscott Trot 5k

Nov. 21
- Dining in
- Cake cutting at lunch
- Michael Scott concert on Oasis Stage
- Special meal at Marne Dining Facility
- Audie Murphy Club induction ceremony
- Mass re-enlistment ceremony



Headline Highlights

'Tranquil' executions; million-dollar art find

Dutch town changes street name over Viagra jibe

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) — The Dutch town of Breda has decided to rename a new street that was to have been called St. Fiacrius court after people started calling it Viagra court.

The town council changed the street's name to "Hofhage" after people about to move into a planned housing development there complained about the negative associations of living in a street with a name that sounds like the popular impotence drug.

Japan minister mulls over 'tranquil' executions: report

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japanese Justice Minister Kunio Hatoyama said on Wednesday he wanted to consider more 'tranquil' methods of execution.

Japan generally executes several convicts a year, always by hanging.

"I am fully aware that 'death by hanging' is written in the criminal code," Hatoyama said after a parliamentary committee meeting, Kyodo news agency said.

"A square part of the floor opens up and they fall with a thud," he said. "I honestly wonder if there isn't a more tranquil way of doing this," Kyodo quoted him as adding.

It was not clear what other methods he was considering.

Lethal injection has hit problems in

the United States, where the Supreme Court is set to rule on whether administering the commonly used three-chemical cocktail violates the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

All but one of the 38 U.S. states with the death penalty and the federal government use lethal injection, which has come under scrutiny after botched executions in California and Florida in which the condemned took over 30 minutes to die.

Electrocution was introduced in New York in 1888 as a more humane method of execution than hanging, but there have been instances of inmates catching fire, multiple jolts being needed to kill and bones being broken by convulsing limbs.

Hatoyama came under fire in September for suggesting those sentenced to death should be executed automatically, without having the penalty approved by the justice minister as is current practice.

He said on Wednesday he would like to hear the opinions of those opposed to the death penalty. Opinion polls show most Japanese back capital punishment.

Painting found in NY trash could fetch up to \$1 million

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The treasure that a New York City woman saved from the trash — a stolen masterpiece by Mexican artist Rufino Tamayo — is expected to go for as much as \$1 mil-

lion at auction next month.

Elizabeth Gibson will get a \$15,000 reward for returning "Tres Personajes" ("Three People") to its rightful owners, as well as an undisclosed percentage of the auction price.

Nearly four years ago Gibson was on her way to coffee when she spotted the painting among garbage bags set out for morning collection in her Upper West Side neighborhood.

She walked by it at first but said she "immediately knew I had to go back. I knew I had to take it!"

"It was a huge, powerful and beautiful painting and I said to myself, 'It is wrong to be in the garbage,'" Gibson told Reuters on Tuesday.

Gibson, who had hung up the painting after her discovery, said she learned of its worth when research led her to the Web site of "Antiques Roadshow FYI," a companion program to the PBS show "Antiques Roadshow."

Sotheby's expert August Uribe had featured the painting on "Antiques Roadshow FYI" after it was stolen more than 20 years ago.

"Tres Personajes" was returned to its owners, who wish to remain anonymous, and is expected to fetch between \$750,000 and \$1 million when Sotheby's auctions it on November 20.

If Gibson had not acted so quickly after spying the painting, it might have been lost forever. A doorman nearby later told her that garbage collectors had come along just 20 minutes after she had left with her new finding.

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Outside

burr-reh