

THE

# Dog Face Daily

Volume 1, Issue 186

www.taskforcemarne.com

November 2, 2007

Serving Task Force Marne



Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Sgt. Carlos Guerrero (right) and Spc. Walter Epert, both scouts with 1-40th Cav. Regt., poise themselves on a rooftop and prepare to engage insurgents in Hawr Rajab Oct. 27.

## Cav, CLC, IA fend off checkpoint attack

**SGT. LUIS DELGADILLO**  
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – Coalition Forces saw a possible glimpse of the future in Hawr Rajab Oct. 27 when they observed Concerned Local Citizens at a checkpoint come under attack from insurgents, defend themselves and then receive reinforcements from Iraqi army troops.

Paratroopers of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, Alaska, currently attached to 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., Fort Stewart, Ga., observed the event from a rooftop.

Everything kicked off with a bang.

Paratroopers were en route to the concerned citizens' southern-most checkpoint just outside of Hawr Rajab, when their casual conversations were shattered by the thunderous sound of a mortar landing nearby.

The Paratroopers moved into a building to avoid any potential threats. From inside, Paratroopers began to hear bursts of small arms fire coming from the south.

"Get to the roof, go, go," one Paratrooper shouted.

In a flurry of movement, they ascended the stairs to the second floor and in seconds they were on top of the action,

*"I haven't sensed any tension between the CLC leadership and the IA leadership."*

— Capt. Frederick Giles  
MITT effects coordinator

weapons drawn and at the ready.

The momentary confusion of the gunfight cleared up as soon as communication was established with the

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# Official mail — it's not for everyone

**SPC. EMILY J. WILSONCROFT**  
EDITOR

When units need to send equipment or important documents to each other and are unable to hand-deliver them, the first place they go is the official mail room.

The official mail system was designed to facilitate this kind of inter-unit communication. Unfortunately, many Soldiers seem to be laboring under a few misconceptions about it.

Sgt. Rafael Torrento, the NCO in charge of the official mail room at Camp Victory, would like to clear up those points of confusion.

First, what qualifies to be sent by official mail?

According to Army Regulation 25-51, official mail is authorized only for business pertaining solely to the U.S. federal government.

"A lot of Soldiers think they can ship their military gear home for free just because it is military gear, but that's not the case," Torrento said. "There are a few case-by-case exceptions, but unless a Soldier is (wounded in action), personal gear must be sent through the regular mail."

A couple examples of official mail are classified documents and military equipment that is being sent solely for government business (such as a foot locker full of protective masks for a unit).

Always keep in mind that if the item you are sending is not meant to be strictly for government use, it does not qualify as official mail. In addition, items such as care packages are not authorized.

Secondly, who can send official

**The Camp Victory  
Official Mail Room is  
located directly  
adjacent to the  
Victory post office,  
in front of Task Force  
Marne headquarters.**

## Hours

Mon.-Fri.: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sat.: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Registered Mail Turn-in

Mon.-Fri.: 9 a.m. to 1:30

p.m.

Sat.: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Phone: DSN 822-4792**

mail?

"The only people authorized to use the official mail room are members of the military and (Department of Defense) civilians," Torrento said. "Contractors and other civilians must go through the regular post office."

Having established what can be sent and who is authorized to send it, Soldiers had better know the proper procedure for going about it.

"(Fragmentary Order) 108 states that all official mail has to come with a memorandum signed by an O-3 or higher, and an O-5 or higher if the Soldier is WIA," Torrento said.

That means that before any person can send any piece of official mail, he

or she must present a typed memorandum stating the contents of the mail, its purpose, where it is being sent and how many pieces are included in the shipment.

Once you've turned in your memo, you can present your mail for inspection. All mail must be brought to the official mail room open and unsealed — AR 25-51 states that all official mail is subject to search and seizure, and Torrento said he always inspects the mail's contents. Each package being sent by official mail must weigh no more than 70 pounds.

Finally, in order to get your letter or package where it needs to go, you must have a typed address label.

"People always get mad at me because I won't let them handwrite their labels," Torrento said. "There can be no exceptions; all labels have to be typed."

Torrento urged everyone sending official mail to make sure they have all their documentation and packages prepared when they arrive at the mail room.

"When everything is already in order, it makes the process go much more smoothly," he said. "If you have any questions, call us and ask! I will always answer questions and try to do everything I can to help with the mission."

## **EXPECTING A HOLIDAY PACKAGE?**

### **Keep your loved ones informed:**

According to the Military Postal Service Agency, mail going parcel post must be sent by Nov. 14. First-class mail must be sent by Dec. 10 to arrive by Dec. 25.

## THE Dog Face Daily

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214th Fires Brigade

82nd Sustainment Brigade

720th Military Police Battalion

Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion



## ATTACK: Concerned Citizens fend off insurgents with IA, Cav Soldiers

From Page 1

checkpoint.

Initial reports from concerned citizens indicated the insurgents were attacking from a position behind a canal, approximately 400 meters from the checkpoint.

As 1-40th Cav. Regt. troops saw the events unfold, 1st Lt. Daniel L. Doverspike, a platoon leader for Troop A, contacted the Iraqi army troop commanders in the area. He asked IA commanders to move the tanks belonging to the newly arrived IA mechanized company into position and assist the concerned citizens at the checkpoint.

When the tanks arrived, they engaged the enemy forces, alongside their concerned citizen counterparts.

Soon an Apache attack helicopter air weapons team from 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, arrived on site and was scouring the nearby canals for enemy forces.

The insurgents retreated after a 45-minute 'cat and mouse' game with IA and concerned citizens, which resulted in no injuries.

The determination and team work of the IA and concerned citizens showed Paratroopers that both groups could work together effectively.

Spc. Charley Stetson, an infantryman with 1-40th Cav. Regt. said he felt his unit had done a good job of rooting out insurgents in the area around Entry Control Point 20, but the addition of concerned citizens and now the Iraqi army has helped the security situation.

Their actions during the insurgent attack gave insight into the growing relationship between the two groups.

Stetson, a native of Fal-mouth, Maine, said the IA's resources add much to the concerned citizens' capabilities and the concerned citizens add much to the IA's knowledge of the area.

Capt. Frederick B. Giles, effects coordinator for the military transition team assigned to the 5th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division said the concerned citizens were happy about the Iraqi troops moving into the area and assisting with security.

"I haven't sensed any tension between the CLC leadership and the IA leadership," said Giles, a native of Honolulu.

The good relationships developing between the concerned citizens, the IA and Coalition Forces in the urban farming community of Hawr Rajab may signal the beginning of a community with a secure future.

# Joint security station opens in Jisr Diyala

SPC. BEN HUTTO

3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — A joint security station, which will be used to synchronize security operations and essential services for citizens in Jisr Diyala, Tuwaita and surrounding areas, opened in Jisr Diyala Oct. 29.

Iraqi police, Iraqi national police, Coalition Forces, emergency medical services and facility protective services will work together at the facility to plan and coordinate combined operations.

"This building will provide one central location where citizens can go to with any issues they may have," said Capt. Brian Gilbert, from Boise, Idaho, the commander of Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment. "The biggest thing is that it combines the national police, Iraqi police, emergency medical services, facility protective services and the Concerned Local Citizens into one working cell that can support themselves and the people of this area."

The ribbon cutting was attended by representatives from each organization.

Gilbert explained that Troop C's role would be to help protect the facility and provide any assistance that the various organizations there might need.

The director of the facility will be an NP commander, but 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division assisted by hiring an assistant director to coordinate civilian functions at the station.

"The station will stream line operation in the area and give the citizens an easier way to communicate with security forces," Gilbert said.

## Safety Thought of the Day

### Lightning Protection Safety

- Avoid large masses of isolated metal in open fields (for example, wire fences, antennas, metal pipes, equipment and other metallic objects that could possibly attract lightning).
- Avoid tall objects, isolated trees or poles in large open spaces, and bodies of water.
- Minimize use of electrical equipment of any kind, especially phones and radios with antenna extended. If time permits, disconnect items to prevent damage.
- Discontinue refueling and ammunition activities when lightning is within five miles.
- If you see lightning, begin counting seconds — if you hear thunder within 30 seconds, you are in the danger zone.
- Find shelter, with the best place being a building or a vehicle with rubber tires.
- Do not huddle together in a group if unavoidably caught in a flat, open space or bare hilltop. Kneel bent forward with hands resting on your knees.

## Headline Highlights

# Airbus lays down law; sofa find; Halloween ban

## Rape blamed on spider bite

SYDNEY (Reuters) — An Australian man who kidnapped and raped a woman blamed his actions on a spider, local media reported on Thursday.

Philip Spiers pleaded guilty to the kidnap and rape, but told a court that the poison from a funnel-web spider bite had left him with a viral illness which led to his actions.

But a toxicologist told the New South Wales state District Court there was no medical evidence to suggest a spider bite could be responsible for anger and hatred.

Spiers, who kidnapped and raped the woman in 1997, was sentenced on Wednesday to eight years in jail.

## No love on Airbus

SINGAPORE (Reuters) — Singapore Airlines, the first operator of the new Airbus A380, has dashed the hopes of sexual thrill-seekers planning to engage in amorous activity aboard the world's biggest jumbo jet.

The carrier said it would ask passengers on the A380 to refrain from sex while ensconced in one of its 12 first-class suites, which boast the world's first airborne double beds.

"All we ask of customers, wherever they are on our aircraft, is to observe standards that don't cause offence to other customers and crew," the company told Reuters in a statement.

"Nothing different applies for our

Singapore Airlines Suites customers."

While private, the double cabins are neither sound proofed nor completely sealed.

Singapore Airlines, the world's second-largest airline by market value, started commercial flights of the double-decker A380 last week with a Singapore-Sydney service.

"So they'll sell you a double bed, and give you privacy and endless champagne and then say you can't do what comes naturally?" Tony Elwood, who traveled with wife Julie in a suite aboard the inaugural flight, told the Times of London.

"They seem to have done everything they can to make it romantic, short of bringing round oysters," Julie said. "I'd say they shouldn't really complain, should they?"

## Student finds baroque painting inside old sofa

BERLIN (Reuters) — A Berlin student who bought a second-hand sofa bed at a flea market learned she had been sitting on a small fortune when she found a baroque painting hidden inside the couch.

The artwork fetched 19,200 euros (\$27,660) in Hamburg after the student discovered it stashed between the folding sections of the couch she had paid 150 euros for last year, the auctioneers said Tuesday.

"She used the sofa bed for a while before realizing the painting was in

there," said Michaela Derra, spokeswoman for the auction house Ketterer Kunst, adding she did not know how the oil painting had wound up inside the sofa.

The student got about 16,000 euros from the sale.

Experts believe the work, titled "Preparations for the flight to Egypt," was painted between 1605 and 1610 by an unknown artist with ties to Venetian painter Carlo Saraceni.

## Schools ban 'cult of death'

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Moscow schools have been ordered to ban students from celebrating Halloween despite the widespread popularity of the imported festival to Russia.

Halloween is being forced underground because it "includes religious elements, the cult of death, the mockery of death," a spokesman for the city's education department Alexander Gavrillov said Wednesday.

"It's not an attempt to block the celebration of this holiday completely, just in schools and colleges," he added.

Pumpkins and images of witches are widespread across Russia, with many bars organizing special fancy dress parties, despite the efforts of the Kremlin, and especially the Russian Orthodox Church, to curb enthusiasm for non-native festivities.

"This is destructive for the minds and the spiritual and moral health of pupils," said Gavrillov.

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

**Solution to yesterday's puzzle:**

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

## ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Kind (type)

*nah-wa-AA*