

THE

Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne



Sgt. Jason Stadel

Capt. Karl Bruening accepts a plaque from an Iraqi Ministry of Education representative in Al Thuar Nov. 4. The plaque was a thank-you gift to the 1-40th Cav. Regt. Soldiers for their hard work in opening the school.

School opens in area once plagued by al-Qaeda

SGT. JASON STADEL
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB FALCON — The Al Zyrka school in Al Thuar opened its doors Nov. 1 thanks to the efforts of U.S. Soldiers.

A lengthy remodeling project after insurgents vandalized the school was undertaken by the civil affairs team from 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, currently attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

"The school was in really bad shape," said Sgt. 1st Class Bill Connell, civil affairs team, 1-40th Cav. Regt. "It had been damaged by insurgents and was unusable."

The school had no usable restroom facilities, no running water, paint was peeling off the walls and most of the glass was broken out of the windows.

In addition to the damage, improvised explosive devices were commonplace along the road leading to the school and al-Qaeda held an iron fist over the residents.

"Teachers were afraid to come here and teach," said Capt. Karl Bruening, executive officer, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment. "They were afraid to go down the road because of all the IEDs."

Soldiers from Battery B said change came when the local citizens began

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Concerned citizens help protect Iraqis, U.S. Soldiers

PVT. MARY GURNEE
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

FOB MAHMUDIYAH — Iraqi citizens in southwest Baghdad are securing their communities from terrorists with the help of Rakkasans.

Soldiers in the 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), participated in a flag-planting ceremony at the future site of a Concerned Local Citizens checkpoint Nov. 1.

"We work with the local Iraqi leaders, their sheiks, their military advisers, and we provide

reflective vests as well as an Iraqi flag," said 2nd Lt. Bronson J. Hayes, medical service officer for the 626th Brigade Support Battalion, attached to 3-320th FA Regt.

The individuals working at the checkpoints were given identification cards and uniforms. The U.S. Army does not provide firearms or ammunition, Hayes said.

Before Iraqis can man the checkpoints, Hayes said that retinal scans

"(The CLC program) puts the fate of the Iraqis in the hands of the Iraqis."

— Capt. Benjamin Torpy,
HHB, 3-320th FA
commander

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Kiowa Warriors continue to improve

SGT. 1ST CLASS THOMAS MILLS
3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP STRIKER — The OH-58 Kiowa was born out of the need for a versatile, relatively inexpensive and easily-maintained scout helicopter during the Vietnam conflict.

Now, some 30 years after its introduction to the Army the latest version of the Kiowa Warrior is still serving. In the case of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, currently attached to the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division at Baghdad International Airport, the Kiowa Warrior is still evolving.

"We are still looking for new ways to improve the effectiveness of the Kiowa Warrior on the battlefield," said Chief Warrant Officer Mike Cavaco, production control officer, 3-17 Cav. Regt.

So far, Cavaco said, during this deployment the Fort Drum-based unit's helicopters have been improved in three ways — a more modern video recording device, an improved laser pointer, and an improved battery.

"Every one of these modifications get submitted to (Aviation and Missile Command) so that they approve it and make sure it's airworthy and so on," Cavaco said.

The laser pointer is a device borrowed from the infantry and replaces an obsolete system that was added some 20 years ago, Cavaco said.

The battery, a single, dry cell rechargeable unit, replaces the two nickel-cadmium batteries the helicopter had before. The scout helicopters of 3-17 Cav. Regt. are the first to field these batteries as part of testing for the Army's entire Kiowa Warrior fleet, Cavaco said. They are more reliable, stronger and most importantly, lighter.

"Maintenance of the aircraft is faster, allowing us to turn it around and get it out as soon as possible," Cavaco said.

The biggest change to the helicopter, Cavaco said, is the video recorder.

"In theater requirements (for video recording engagements) have changed," said Chief Warrant Officer Jeff Ger-



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

ber, armament officer, 3-17 Cav. Regt. Many combat aviation brigades require that in a team of two scout helicopters, one has a recorder on board.

These recorders tape engagements — recording tactics and procedures, battle damage, and often acting as a mode of intelligence gathering.

The 3-17 Cav. Regt. helicopters came to Iraq with old eight millimeter systems that were subject to maintenance

problems.

Gerber, Chief Warrant Officer Brian Beagle, maintenance platoon leader, and Steve Shattles, civilian representative from Bell Helicopters, came up with a solution.

They decided to take an existing recorder used on the Apache Longbow and modify it to work in the Kiowa.

The recorder uses a 16-gigabyte hard drive that can be pulled from the helicopter and plugged into any computer via a USB port, said Cavaco.

Gerber, Beagle and Shattles contacted various manufacturers for all the parts and pieces that go into a recording system, and after a month of work came up with a viable way to field the recorders. The unit manufactures cable on site and modifies the existing eight mm system's bracket to fit the new video recorder.

"We've had five installed now for close to a month and have no failures," Cavaco said.

These modifications are on a long list of changes the venerable Kiowa Warrior has seen over the years and it was a stretch to find a way to improve the versatile airframe.

The pilots and ground crews of 3-17 Cav. Regt. haven't stopped working on improving their helicopters.

"It's this type of thinking outside the box and making these improvements that allow the (Kiowa Warrior) to fly more hours — and at a higher readiness rate — than any other airframe in the (3rd CAB)," Cavaco said.

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

SCHOOL: *Al Zyrka school opens in formerly violent neighborhood*

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trusting the Soldiers, loosening al-Qaeda's grip in the area.

"We've been winning the hearts and minds of the people," said Sgt. Kry Phou, Btry. B, 2-377th PFAR. "We were able to catch a lot of bad guys from intel we got from the locals."

Bruening said the Soldiers' pursuit of insurgents was a large factor in opening the school.

A local contractor was hired to do the work; he in turn hired local residents in the Al Thuar area to help him.

While security improved, al-Qaeda tried to deter the work with threats.

"The contractor had been threatened so many times," said Bashir Altaie, bilingual, bicultural adviser for 1-40th Cav. Regt. "(The contractor) would get calls sometimes from insurgents saying they were going to blow up the school."

In response, Btry. B stepped up security and provided 24-hour surveillance of the nearby road and school.

The contractor finished the school and teachers were able to go to work safely.

Local leaders, including the qada council chairman, an Iraqi army battalion commander and a Ministry of



Sgt. Jason Stadel

Sgt. Kry Phou, Btry. B, 2-377th PFAR, shakes hands with an Al Zyrka student during the opening of the school in Al Thuar Nov. 4.

Education representative, were there for the ribbon cutting. Soldiers handed out school supplies and backpacks.

The qada chairman, Muayid Fadil Husayn Habib, expressed his gratitude through a translator.

"We thank them (the Soldiers) for

the work they did," Habib said.

"It's a high standard of work. It improved the community and we created jobs by hiring local people," Altaie said. "This school was built in 1987 and the principal said he never saw the school look this good in his life."

CLC: *Concerned Local Citizens help Soldiers secure communities*

From Page 1

and fingerprints are taken to ensure that the individuals are not associated with terrorist activities.

The Iraqis who will work the future checkpoint were briefed on operation procedures by Capt. Benjamin Torpy, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3-320th FA Regt. commander.

Torpy said the concerned citizens take their positions seriously and seek out ways to improve the checkpoints.

"I think the people in the surrounding areas notice it," Torpy said. "That's

how you get new sheiks coming up to us and asking, 'Is there any way we can get something like that in our area?'"

"The CLCs seem to be working right now," Hayes said, adding that incidences of improvised explosive devices have gone down in the area. "Anything we can do to save Soldiers' lives is well worth it."

Torpy said the CLCs are instrumental to the Coalition Forces' counterinsurgency mission and setting the local citizens up for success.

"It puts the fate of the Iraqis in the hands of the Iraqis, and they are more

than happy to do that from what I see," Torpy said.

"I've talked to the guys out on the checkpoints ... they are happy to be doing something to help protect their families," Torpy said. "They provide a local security to the people they love."

"It's important to understand that these guys are putting their neck out on the line when they go out and stand on these checkpoints," he added. "They're brave guys who are taking a stand. That's a commendable thing to do and we want to help them as much as we can."

Safety Thought of the Day

UXO Safety

- Stand clear of suspected UXO's.
- Mark the area and submit a UXO report.
- Caution Soldiers against collecting dud rounds, bomblets, or suspected UXO's for souvenirs.

- For more information on UXO procedures, reference GTA 9-12-1 and FM 21-16, UXO Procedures
- Remember: If you didn't drop it, don't pick it up! UXO's are an EOD mission only.

Headline Highlights

Out-of-body experience; oldest bratwurst recipe

Brain stimulation sparks out-of-body experience

BOSTON (Reuters) — Electrodes implanted into the brain to treat a man with a stubborn case of ringing in the ear instead sparked an out-of-body sensation, doctors in Belgium reported on Wednesday.

Stimulating the electrodes made the 63-year-old patient feel like he was outside his body twice, for 15 and 21 seconds, and allowed the doctors to use a PET scanner to track which parts of the brain became active during the experience.

The out-of-body sensation of near-death experiences, sometimes reported by people whose hearts have stopped for a time, are regarded by some people as evidence of an afterlife. Most scientists are doubtful, especially when epilepsy, migraine headaches, and brain stimulation can mimic the sensation.

A team led by Dirk De Ridder of the Antwerp University report in the New England Journal of Medicine that they were trying to cure the man of tinnitus in one ear when they stumbled onto the phenomenon.

The treatment did not work. Instead, the electrodes made the man feel like he was about 50 centimeters (20 inches) behind his body and off to the left.

Only a certain pattern of stimulation, involving a portion of the superior temporal gyrus, located on the right side of the brain, produced the sensation.

Positron emission tomography, or PET scans, showed that other parts of the brain became active as a result, in-

cluding the supramarginal gyrus, which processes information from the inner ear designed to detect head movement and position.

"Whether these regions are activated in patients who report disembodiment as part of a near-death experience — and if so, how — is a provocative but unresolved issue," they wrote.

China finds fraudulent drug watchdog Web site

BEIJING (Reuters) — China's battle against fake and substandard drugs has taken an unusual twist with the discovery of a Web site masquerading as that of the country's food and drug watchdog.

The site was apparently set up to promote a diabetes medication, according to a report on government-run Web site china.com. While looking very similar to the State Food and Drug Administration's real site (www.sda.gov.cn), it has a totally different address — and was still functioning Thursday.

"This site is definitely not for real," an official at the regulator was quoted as saying. "These lawbreakers have got some balls!"

The fake site (<http://www.tnb163.cn/sdfs/index.htm>) can be accessed from another purporting to be from a research institute promoting the miracle benefits of a new diabetes drug. But not only is that site a fake, the drug is too, the report added.

The link takes users to a false page on the watchdog's site which lists all the country's officially approved drugs,

to give the impression that the drug is recognized. Calls to the regulator were not answered.

China is in the midst of a crackdown on makers of shoddy drugs following a series of scandals at home and abroad which have tainted the country's reputation.

Historian finds oldest recipe for bratwurst

BERLIN (Reuters) — A hobby historian has discovered the oldest known recipe for German sausage, a list of ingredients for Thuringian bratwurst nearly 600 years old.

According to the 1432 guidelines, Thuringian sausage makers had to use only the purest, unspoiled meat and were threatened with a fine of 24 pfennigs — a day's wages — if they did not, a spokesman for the German Bratwurst Museum said Wednesday.

Medieval town markets in Germany had committees charged with monitoring the quality of produce. Thuringian bratwursts, which are made of beef and pork, are symbols of Germany's cultural heritage and ubiquitous snacks at football matches.

Historian Hubert Erzmman, 75, found the ancient recipe, inscribed with pen and ink in a heavy tome of parchment, earlier this year while doing research in an archive in the eastern town of Weimar, museum spokesman Thomas Maeuer said.

"The discovery shows that there were already consumer protection laws in the Middle Ages," he said.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Halt (stop)

kif (oh-guff)