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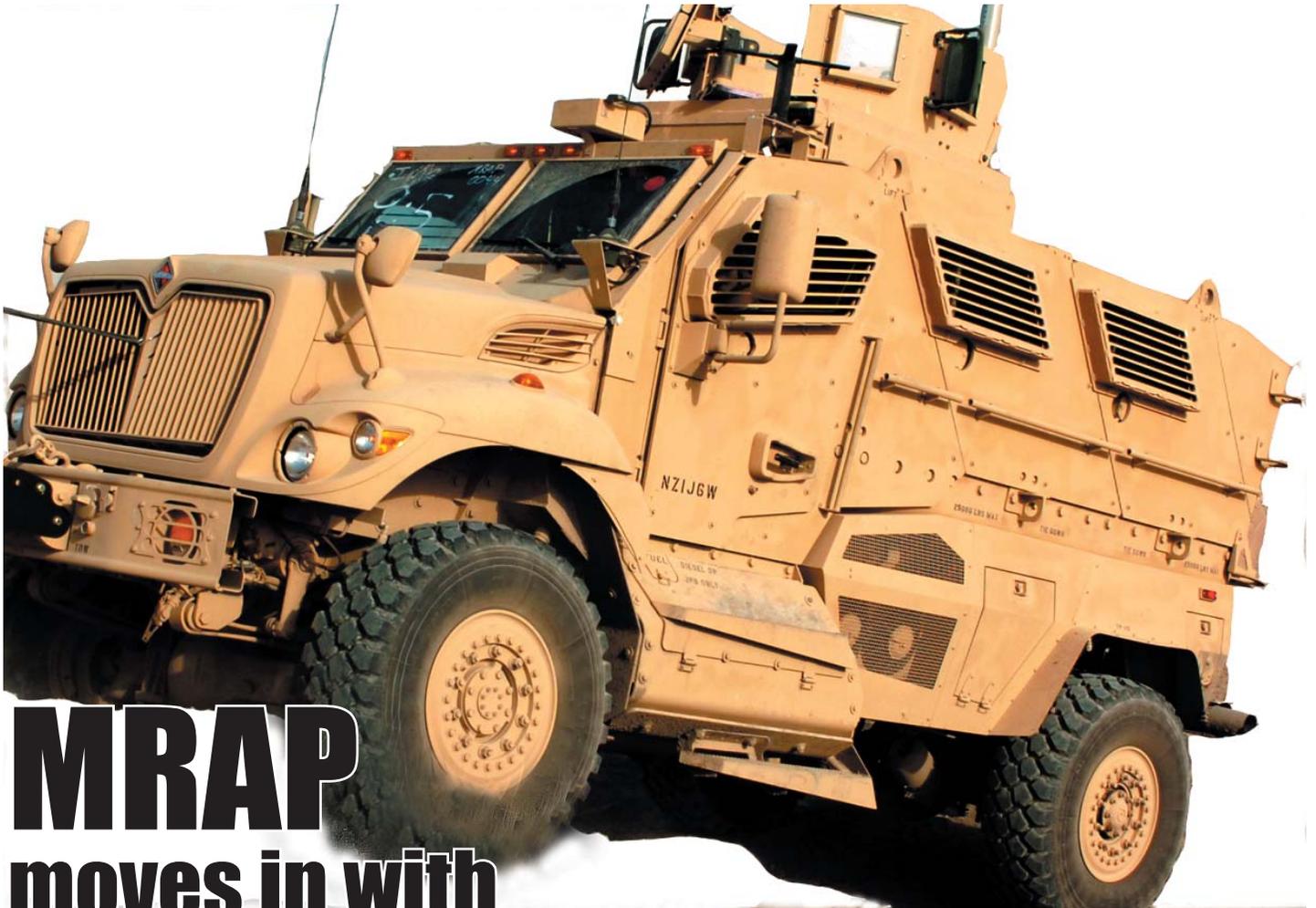
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Serving Task Force Marne



MRAP moves in with Marne infantrymen

SGT. MICHAEL CONNORS
MND-C PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP LIBERTY — This week, approximately 75 Soldiers were the first in Task Force Marne to receive Mine Resistant and Ambush Protected vehicles.

The Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division completed MRAP drivers training here Nov. 8 and will be returning to their respective bases with a total of approximately 20 MRAPs.

MRAP fielding will continue steadily with a goal of having the entire task force outfitted by February, said Sgt 1st Class Jabari Williams, the 2nd BCT MRAP fielding NCOIC.

See MRAP, Page 3

Back to business in Al Buaytha

SGT. KEVIN STABINSKY
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — At first, Hamza Khudair didn't feel threatened by the violence in Iraq. Even after it claimed the lives of two of his cousins, he said, it still didn't seem like a personal threat. But after the violence spread to his hometown of Al Buaytha, Khudair decided to take a stand.

"A lot of neighbors were getting hurt," Khudair

See BUSINESS, Page 2

BUSINESS: Shops in Al Buaytha re-open as insurgent threat decreases

From Page 1

said, describing the final straw of seeing a woman killed by an insurgent bomb.

Khudair volunteered to become a member of the Concerned Local Citizens in the area.

The Concerned Local Citizens is a program in which community members volunteer to stand up against insurgent violence and act as security within their own neighborhoods.

“The Concerned Local Citizens allow us to thicken our presence,” said Maj. Steven Lutsky, plans and operations officer, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

A thickened presence was needed in the city, under the protection of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., because of its location. Al Buaytha, bordering the western bank of the river, was a favored area for insurgents to bypass checkpoints set up on the east side of the Tigris River.

Prior to the introduction of the 2nd BCT into the area as part of the surge, the city lacked any Coalition Force presence since 2003.

Hiding out from Coalition Forces, insurgents transformed the tranquility formerly enjoyed by residents. Shops closed and people began to feel less secure, Khudair said.

Al-Qaeda started pressing the moderate Sunnis of the area to practice a stricter interpretation of Islam, using violence to coerce those who disagreed with them. Now, the people are standing up with the support of the 1-30th Inf. Regt. Soldiers. Local leaders, like retired Iraqi army Brig. Gen. Mustafa Kamel Hamad Shabib Al-Jabouri, began to work with Coalition Forces, forming the base upon which the Concerned



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

An Al Buaytha fruit stand is open for business on the town's main route Nov. 3. Insurgent activity once prevented businesses from opening.

Local Citizens program was built.

The accomplishments of that force are evident in the streets of Al Buaytha.

“We’ve kicked the bad guys out of the area,” Khudair said through an interpreter. “We’ve secured the area.”

On a walkthrough of the area Nov. 3, Lt. Col. Ken Adgie, 1-30th Inf. Regt. commander and Col. Terry Ferrell, 2nd BCT commander, saw the evident signs of progress — shops were open for business and children were playing in the streets after school.

“You’re doing great things. Stores are starting to open up; people are starting to feel safe,” Ferrell said to Adgie as they walked through the town.

These two factors are slowly rebuilding the economy. With stores open and people moving about, money is finally exchanging hands.

One of the shop owners, operating a fruit and vegetable stand near the school, credited the Concerned Local Citizens for facilitating his business. Besides enabling him to get more customers by providing security in the community, he said the Concerned Local Citizens are good customers.

Adgie also decided to inject some money into the local economy, buying bananas, melons, carrot jam and other vegetables from two different vendors.

“We’re here as friends,” he said. “We want the place peaceful and quiet.”

Throughout his area, Adgie said that there are about 700 Concerned Local Citizens volunteering to defend their homes.

It may be a while before the Concerned Local Citizens wear the blue IP uniforms. For now, they wear their own uniform — an orange reflective vest.

THE Dog Face Daily

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3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Abn. Division (Assault)
4th Brigade Combat Team (Abn.), 25th Infantry Division
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division
214th Fires Brigade
82nd Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

MRAP: 1-30th Inf. first unit in TF Marne to receive new armored vehicle

From Page 1

MRAPs come in two categories. Category one holds up to six Soldiers and will replace the humvee. Category two is a longer version, which can hold a crew of 10 Soldiers.

“It’s a good opportunity for us,” said Sgt. David Ipock, Co. A, 1-30th, in regard to the MRAP training. “Anytime we get a new vehicle with more protection, it’s a good thing.”

Prior to the vehicles being handed over to the units for day-to-day use, the Soldiers got five days of training on how to operate, drive and maintain the vehicles. The training included classroom instruction and on- and off-road driving.

This training also introduced the Soldiers to some new features the humvee lacked, like a pneumatic rear ramp

and a shock-absorbing seating system with four-point seatbelts.

“The bomb protection with the seats. I think that might help a lot,” Ipock said. “Everything’s just more advanced — the switches and gauges — things like that.”

Spc. Daniel Lopez with Co. B, also weighed in with what he liked about the new vehicle.

“It’s a big, new toy to replace the 1151 (humvee) — a lot more room,” he said. “I feel more secure in it than the 1151.”

The training not only familiarizes Soldiers with the vehicles, but it builds confidence as well by giving Soldiers the opportunity to drive the vehicles over steep hills and through tight turns.

“It handles fairly well for a tall vehicle, as far as the suspension and handling I was fairly impressed with it,” said Staff Sgt. Steve Stutzman, Co. A,

1-30th. “I went down a 60-degree hill and hit the brakes, nose first, and we just sat there — the vehicle has really good air brakes.”

MRAPs are designed to be both safe and effective for Soldiers conducting patrols, convoy security and missions throughout Iraq.

They are currently being fielded to units that need them the most and that operate in areas with the highest threat.

The goal is for each platoon to eventually have four MRAPs, Williams added.

Although the Humvee is not expected to be phased out anytime soon, the MRAP will begin to take its place as the new standard Army vehicle.

Editor’s note: Sgt. Mark B. Matthews, 27th Public Affairs Detachment, contributed to this article.

Today in Marne history

November 10, 1943

Lt. Maurice Britt was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on this date in 1943.

Disdaining enemy hand grenades and close-range machine pistol, machinegun, and rifle, Britt inspired and led a handful of his men in repelling a bitter counterattack by approximately 100 Germans against his company positions north of Mignano, Italy.

His bold, aggressive actions, utterly disregarding superior enemy numbers, resulted in capture of four Germans, two of them wounded, and enabled several captured Americans to escape.

Britt’s undaunted courage and prowess in arms were largely responsible for repulsing a German counterattack which, if successful, would have isolated his battalion and destroyed his company.



Safety Thought of the Day

RHINO Safety

- While the use of the RHINO is essential for combat operations, this unit, when not stored properly can pose a safety hazard to both personnel and equipment.
- Reduce and eliminate risk by ensuring the RHINO is properly stored for travel inside the wire.
- The Rhino in the down position:
 - Reduces stopping distance.
 - Increases the risk of hitting other equipment, vehicles or personnel.
- Do not lock the RHINO in the stored upright position while fully extended. This practice increases the risk of the unit coming into contact with overhead objects, power lines, or guy-wires.
- Ensure that the RHINO is fully retracted and stored in the locked upright position prior to and upon completion of each mission.



Headline Highlights

Birth mix-up; bovine cliff-dive; look of love

Boys to be re-swapped

RIYADH (Reuters) — Two boys, one Saudi and one Turkish, will swap homes four years after a hospital gave them to the wrong parents, a Saudi newspaper said Wednesday.

“Mistakes are always possible, but we will try to find who was responsible and hold them to account so it doesn’t happen again,” Prince Mishaal bin Saud, governor of Najran in the far south of the kingdom, said in comments in al-Watan newspaper. Saudi health authorities had been reluctant to accept the Turkish father’s claim that his son Yacoub was not his, but DNA tests carried out this week proved him right.

Published pictures show a distinctly Saudi-looking Yacoub. The father of the other child, Saudi national Mohammed al-Monjem, had no inkling that pale-skinned Ali was not his. He will press a 50 million riyal (\$13 million) compensation claim against the health ministry, al-Watan said.

Cow cliff-dives onto minivan

SPOKANE, Washington (Reuters) — A cow plunged from a 200-foot (61-metre) cliff onto the hood of a minivan on a highway in central Washington state, according to police.

The car’s occupants, Charles and Linda Everson, were not hurt in Sunday’s accident, but the cow was euthanized at the scene.

“If the cow had fallen a split second later, the animal would have landed right in their laps,” said Jeff Middleton, criminal deputy of the Chelan County Sheriff’s Department.

Middleton estimated the animal weighed 600 lbs (272 kilograms), or the average size of a mature cow. It had been missing for two days and wandered five miles from home.

Look of love is all in the eyes

LONDON (Reuters) — Burt Bacharach penned the music four decades ago and Dusty Springfield sang about it in the James Bond film “Casino Royale.”

Now, researchers have concluded that “The Look of Love” is, indeed, all in the eyes: looking directly at someone makes you more attractive to them.

The finding, from the Face Research Laboratory at Aberdeen University, challenges previous studies that have attributed attractiveness to physical characteristics — such as a preference for symmetrical faces, large lips in women and strong jaw-lines in men.

Dr Claire Conway, author of the study, which was published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society Wednesday, said that maintaining eye contact and smiling makes you more attractive. Conway and fellow researchers analyzed the effect of gaze direction, facial expressions and gender on attractiveness.

Participants were found to be more attracted to happy faces, looking directly at them and of the opposite sex.

“When asked to think of examples of attractive facial characteristics, most people think of physical traits such as healthy looking skin or a strong jaw,” the researchers said.

“Here, we show that gaze direction can also be important for attraction.

“Faces that were looking directly at

the viewer were judged more attractive than faces with averted gaze. This shows that people prefer faces that appear to like them and that attraction is not simply about physical beauty.”

It’s official: you don’t have to live in France

LONDON (Reuters) — Ask most Britons if they would rather live in France and they’d probably answer “oui.” But British judges have ruled that two English boys who hate living there don’t have to.

The boys, 11 and 16, who have a French mother and a British father, were taken to live in France after the parents’ marriage broke down. But during a visit to England they asserted their “Britishness” and refused to return to live with their mother.

The mother took the case to court, arguing that she had a right to decide where they should live and that the father had put the children up to it, the Times newspaper reported. But three of Britain’s most senior judges decided the boys had an inherent right to refuse to live in France, where nearly 300,000 Britons have chosen to live.

Describing the case as “not just exceptional but very exceptional,” the chief judge said it was clear the children really disliked the country and hadn’t settled in.

They preferred England because, apparently, they could “walk to school, could have their own key and would not have to do as much homework.”

The judge said he had “rarely, if ever, heard such strongly expressed views by children.”

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday’s puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

When?

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