

THE

Dog Face Daily

Volume 1, Issue 220

www.taskforcemarne.com

December 11, 2007

Serving Task Force Marne

Operation Gladiator yields two detainees

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

FOB KALSU – A Coalition Force air assault mission Dec. 9 led to the detainment of two suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq members and the establishment of a Concerned Local Citizen command post in the village of Aby Salman.

Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division began Operation Gladiator before daylight. The mission was to search and clear homes and look for suspected al-Qaeda members.

While setting up an observation post on the roof of

“This is what you train for and this gives us an opportunity to do it.”

— *Spc. Gabriel Maldonado*
Co. B, 1-30th Inf.

a house, a local Iraqi rode by on a bicycle.

He was stopped by U.S. Soldiers and CLCs. The man was searched and discovered to be a suspected al-Qaeda sniper on the brigade high-value target list.

The Soldiers were excited about the mission. “It’s a rush,” said Spc. Gabriel Mal-

donado, from New York City, a team leader in Company B. “This is what you train for and this gives us an opportunity to do it.”

The company hadn’t

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A Soldier from Co. B, 1-30th Inf. Regt., uses a flashlight to climb a flight of stairs during a house-clearing mission Dec. 9.

Fort Drum MPs assume mission in Wasit



Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles

The 511th MP Co. 1st Sgt. Rodney Bowens and commander, Capt. Eric Wigley, unfurl the MPs’ guidon in a TOA ceremony Dec. 9.

SGT. 1ST CLASS STACY NILES
214TH FIRES BRIGADE

FOB DELTA – With more than 1,365 completed missions in Iraq, the 984th Military Police Company transferred its mission to the 511th Military Police Company Dec. 9 at FOB Delta, Iraq.

The company’s mission is to train Iraqi Police and to conduct security operations in support of Coalition Forces, said Lt. Col. Frank Rangel, Jr., the 720th MP Battalion commander. The 720th is the battalion headquarters of both the 984th and 511th MP companies.

The 984th MPs, from Fort Carson, Colo., had more than 90 incidents of

combat action in Najaf, Qadisiyah and Wasit, said Rangel. The 984th MP Soldiers earned nine Purple Heart medals, 97 combat action badges, 25 Bronze Star Medals, and two awards for valor.

“This is a joyous occasion for the Immortals, but it has been a long deployment and it has taken its toll. This company has paid dearly with the lives of three of our Soldiers and the Soldiers standing here in this formation have made many personal sacrifices,” said Capt. Mark Daley, commander of the 984th MP Co. “We have made a large contribution to the stability of Iraq and the war against terror, but we have

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FOB Kalsu battles Christmas blues

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

FOB KALSU — Even before deploying to Iraq, Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division knew it wouldn't be a white Christmas. To keep holiday blues away, many Soldiers are turning to Christmas greens.

Christmas trees are sprouting up all over Forward Operating Base Kalsu. While the trees are only synthetic, the cheer they bring is authentic.

"If there wasn't a Christmas tree out it wouldn't feel like Christmas," said Pfc. Christina Cordova, clerk, S4, property book office.

The Christmas tree decorating her office brings holiday feelings to more than her fellow property book office workers. The tree, sent to the section by Sgt. 1st Class Karen Bell and Warrant Officer Denyi Johnson, both 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., rear detachment S4, draws many people into the office, Cordova said.

The six-foot-tall tree dwarfs the miniature trees more commonly found in brigade offices.

"We get a lot of comments on the tree," added Cordova, who set up and decorated the tree along with Staff Sgt. Mayreny Matias and Warrant Officer Shirley Goodman.

The S4 shop is not the only office putting up holiday decorations. Though responsible for supplying the company with materials needed to perform their jobs, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., is also trying to supply the unit with Christmas cheer.

Decorations such as garlands, wreaths, stockings and tinsel give their



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Pfc. Christina Cordova, property book clerk in 2nd BCT, poses with the Christmas tree in her office.

otherwise-plain office a holiday feeling. A miniature Christmas tree has also taken up residence in the office.

"It's tradition; you bring your life with you," said Sgt. San Juana Arreola, a nuclear, chemical and biological specialist with HHC supply. "Your traditions don't just disappear because you're somewhere else. You keep your traditions."

In keeping with tradition, many sections in the brigade are also playing secret Santa. Cordova said her section and several others all placed their names in a hat and picked one name to get a gift for.

Many communities back home are

also playing Santa by sending thousands of packages to 2nd BCT Soldiers.

Chap. (Maj.) Jay Hearn, brigade chaplain, said there will be a variety of religious services offered at the base for Christmas. Video teleconferences with families back at Fort Stewart, Ga., will also be offered for Soldiers to get in touch with their families. For those whose families may not be at Fort Stewart and can't attend a VTC, Hearn said there are other ways to keep them close by. Digital pictures frames, which display uploaded pictures, are great gifts that allow Soldiers to keep plenty of photos around their work area.

Soldiers can also take advantage of the free postage on regular-sized letters to send their loved ones Christmas cards. Several vendors in the Hinesville, Ga., community outside Fort Stewart sent Hearn boxes of Christmas cards to give to Soldiers to ensure they were able to keep in touch with loved ones.

While all this can help Soldiers from catching the blues around Christmas, Hearn acknowledges that families at home can still feel saddened by having their Soldier away for the holidays. For these families, Hearn recommended visiting with other family members, or taking a trip, like his family is, to get their mind off of the separation.

Families in the Fort Stewart area can also partake in the many family readiness groups and chapel holiday-themed programs offered to families of deployed Soldiers.

Although Hearn said there will always be a little bit of sadness being away from family during the holidays, it doesn't have to bring a Soldier down.

THE Dog Face Daily

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7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

GLADIATOR: *Air assault mission leads to two captured, new CLC HQ*



Sgt. Jason Stadel

A squad from Co. B, 1-30th Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., rushes into a house in Aby Salmon during a house-clearing mission Dec. 9.

From Page 1

been in the area over the last month and the threat of house-borne improvised explosive devices was high.

Most of the homes searched were empty.

"The bad guys scared all the people away. We haven't been here in a while so hopefully the people will come back," said 1st Lt. Derrick Anderson, from Fredericksburg, Va.

One of the houses that was cleared is now being set up as a CLC command post.

The CLC members that will work from the command post will be residents from the area said Capt. John Newman, Company B commander.

"Their knowledge will help us in the area," Newman said.

During the mission another suspected al-Qaeda member was detained and a 57mm IED was destroyed in a controlled detonation by an explosive ordnance disposal team.

TOA: *984th MP Co. hands over Wasit training mission to 511th MP Co.*

From Page 1

missed a lot of things back home over the last 15 months. Now it's time to go home, and mend those relationships that have not gotten the full attention they deserved over the last 15 months."

The 511th MPs from Fort Drum, N.Y., are ready to accept the responsibilities that have been given to them, said Capt. Eric Wigley, the 511th MP Co. commander.

The 511th assumed police transition training duties for Wasit province's Iraqi police station.

"We've heard many times that we have big shoes to fill," Wigley said. "While that is certainly true, my ops sergeant put it best when he said that, 'we have big feet'. We've trained many long days and weeks, and have traveled a long way from home to accomplish a mission, and we have every intention of doing just that."



Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles

Soldiers from the 984th Military Police Company render honors to the U.S. Flag during the TOA Dec. 9.

Safety Thought of the Day

Recovery Operations

- Ensure cranes have proper clearance from overhead power lines.
- Stop or reroute traffic to prevent Soldiers from being hit by vehicles.
- Engine fuel and oil spills are contained and pose no threat of fire or explosion prior to recovery.
- Ammunition should be inspected for damage and removed if possible to prevent explosions.
- Be mindful of loose road shoulders and the possibility of rolling into

- canals or ditches.
- Enforce the use of ground guides.
- Hours of darkness will slow recovery operations; ensure proper lighting and precautions are used.
- Never rush an operation or take shortcuts.
- Use the right equipment for the job.
- Ensure PPE is worn at all times
- See FM 4-30.31 for more information



Headline Highlights

Jaywalking crackdown; airline's \$65 mil fine

Lights turn red for jaywalkers

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — Pedestrians don't cross the Indian capital's chaotic streets so much as dash across as if their life depends on it, which it very often does.

More than 900 pedestrians a year fail to make it to the other side, killed by the city's lawless drivers. So police decided on Wednesday it was time to start enforcing a 27-year-old rule against jaywalking.

The result was puzzlement and sometimes anger from people for whom dicing with traffic death is a fact of Indian urban life. At six busy New Delhi intersections on Thursday, police officers grabbed jaywalkers by the arm, issued them tickets, and made them pay 20-rupee (50-cent) fines before explaining the idea of waiting patiently for the lights to change.

"We have to run, the lights don't turn green long enough for us to cross," said D.K. Bhargav, an angry, 57-year-old office worker, fearlessly confronting an officer with his complaint.

"And in other places there's no crossing at all."

"Speak to the government and say, 'Kindly build us a crossing,'" was the policeman's advice.

In the city's Connaught Place commercial district, a troop of men in woolly jumpers, smart shoes and trousers were hastily painting a new zebra crossing.

Then police reinforcements arrived and, for the first time that anyone could remember, made about 50 pedestrians line up and wait patiently on either side of the road while traffic rushed by,

smearing the still-drying paint.

People giggled self-consciously, smiling at those on the opposite curb. During a pause in the traffic someone tried to break ranks and dash across, but a whistle-blowing policeman intercepted him, making everyone laugh.

"How would a villager know about these lights? There are no traffic lights in their villages," said Constable Suresh Sharma, who thought the widespread rule-breaking was partly due to Delhi's large population of rural migrants.

"Our aim is not to prosecute people, our aim is to educate them," police spokesman Rajan Bhagat explained by telephone. But not everyone who was fined took away the correct message.

"Next time I'll be watchful," said Vasant Pant, a 20-year-old courier late making his deliveries. "I'll look to see if there's a policeman before crossing."

Some offenders, like Sachin Chaudry, a young bank executive, quickly handed over their fine and their details without even interrupting their cellphone calls. Others were more evasive.

"I don't have the money," pleaded Ankita Khurana, a nervous-looking 18-year-old student.

"Then you'll have to go to jail," the policeman replied. She suddenly remembered she had change in her bag.

But another jaywalker — a scrawny man in unwashed clothes — seemed to be telling the truth.

"This is all I have," he pleaded, holding out five rupees.

The policeman took this as an insult, waving a finger in his face before pushing him back the way he came.

"Next time don't cross without a green light," he snarled.

Firm told to pay \$65 million for plane

BEIJING (Reuters) — A Chinese state-run company has been ordered to pay a record \$65 million in compensation, plus interest, for destroying a Malaysia Airlines plane with falsely declared cargo of caustic chemicals.

The Airbus A330 was ruined when 80 canisters belonging to the Dalian branch of the China National Chemical Construction Corp. leaked an extremely corrosive chemical, oxalyl chloride, in the cargo hold in March 2000.

The crew of the passenger flight from Beijing detected an acrid odor before landing in Kuala Lumpur en route to India and five ground handlers were taken ill when unloading the canisters to be sold to an Indian company.

The passengers disembarked without incident, but the \$130 million aircraft was so badly damaged that the manufacturer concluded that it could not be repaired. The Beijing Higher People's Court ruled Wednesday that the Dalian company should bear the main blame by declaring the canisters contained a safe chemical in the form of powder, the Beijing Times said Thursday.

The company had to pay five foreign insurers for Malaysia Airlines \$65 million plus interest in compensation, ending a five-year lawsuit, the newspaper said.

The compensation ordered by the Beijing court was the highest ever for a civil lawsuit in the Chinese capital, the Beijing Times said.

Both sides had yet to decide whether or not to appeal the ruling, the newspaper said.

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to Saturday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

How many are there?

ish-ged ah-ded-hoom?