

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne



Photos by Sgt. Timothy Kingston

Soldiers from Co. B, 1-15th Inf. Regt., prepare to enter a building during an air assault in Al Bawi Dec. 11.

CLCs key to success of air assault

SPC. BEN HUTTO
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — Using information provided by Concerned Local Citizens, Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, killed two insurgents, seized a weapons cache and destroyed an enemy stronghold during a nighttime air assault in Al Bawi, a small village outside of Salman Pak, Dec. 11.

The cache contained mortars, grenades, improvised weapon-making materials and an unknown explosive compound.

"The Soldiers performed well," said Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Blount, from Hampton, Va., the scout platoon sergeant, Headquarters Company, 1-15th Inf. Regt. "They executed the plan as we rehearsed it.

"The biggest part of this and every other mission is the rehearsal. I tell my guys, 'This isn't our first air assault, but treat it like it is. Every mission is different. Don't get complacent.'"

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Capt. Todd Barrett, the scout platoon leader in HHC, 1-15th Inf. Regt. (left), speaks with Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Blount, platoon sergeant of the scout platoon, during an air assault in Al Bawi Dec. 11.

Experience key to weather forecasting

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

CAMP STRIKER — In a small room on the flight line at Baghdad International Airport a small group of Airmen toil away, crunching data designed to keep Soldiers safe.

The Airmen are from the Army Support Weather Unit supporting the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, as the brigade's staff weather office. It's their job to keep the unit's helicopter pilots informed on weather.

"What we're not doing is, we're not here to advise people on when to wear a raincoat," said Master Sgt. John Michael, NCO in charge of the 3rd CAB SWO. "We're about making sure the mission is done safely with regards to weather."

Even on the clearest, most beautiful of days in Iraq, things can be potentially dangerous aloft, Michael said. Weather that is considered uncomfortable for ground troops can spell out death to a helicopter crew. It's the weather office's job to let the pilots know about those conditions.

The process of informing the pilots starts with weather observations, he said. On a rooftop above their office is a

Tactical Meteorological Observing System, a combined sensor array that measures atmospheric variables like wind direction, wind speed, cloud height and visibility.

Besides the local sensors the forecasters also look at satellite imagery, radar, and observations from other areas in Iraq.

Every hour on the hour the forecasters make observations, gather the data from all those sources and send it back to a central hub in the States.

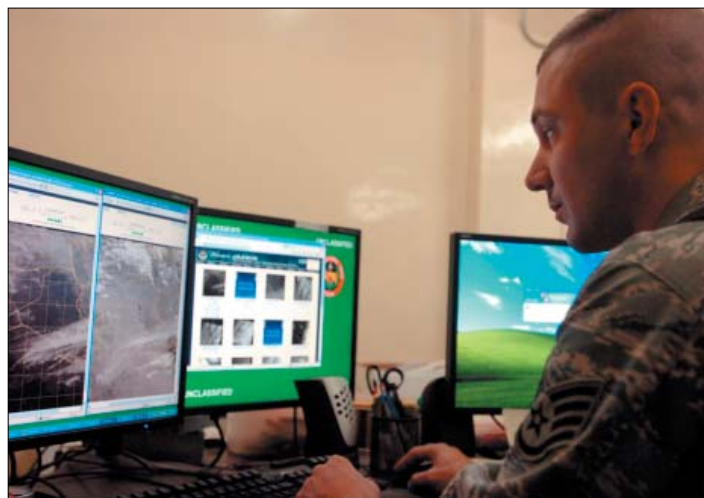
"That's the start of the weather forecasting process," Michael said.

From there the data is fed into a computer model in the States and a forecast is kicked back to the forecasters in the field.

The computer model looks at all the different levels and variables and takes them all into consideration before computing a forecast, said Master Sgt. Dan Godin, 3rd CAB SWO. The computer model starts at the zero hour, said Godin, which is the time it is received, and goes out 180 hours into the future.

The first thing the forecasters have to do is make sure the zero hour forecast fits the observed weather, Godin explained.

"We have to make sure



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills

Staff Sgt. Charles Malone, forecaster, 3rd CAB SWO, checks satellite imagery on his computer in the staff weather office on the 3rd CAB flight line.

the model is lined up with what's happening. Basically you have to check and make sure it's set up correctly to begin with," Godin said.

The forecaster's experience is the final piece in the weather puzzle as they take all the information into account and inform the pilots.

"Out here (in Iraq) a lot of times you're doing limited data forecasting," said Capt. Justin Erwin, 3rd CAB SWO officer. Erwin said they often have to "throw out" the forecast models because they are based on the United States' climate, not Iraq's. "It's critical that we have someone who knows how to forecast."

For that reason, junior enlisted weather forecasters are not thrust suddenly into a field office right out of school. They generally spend time at one of the large weather hubs, learning the ropes.

"By the time they come out to the field with us they have a minimum of three years experience," Godin said.

Experience has taught these forecasters that the data and computer models are all only as good as the people interpreting them.

"It gives us a good start point," Malone said, "but we have to finish it."

THE Dog Face Daily

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Noble father, son serve together during deployment

STAFF SGT. CARLOS J. LAZO
MND-C PAO

CAMP VICTORY — After 34 years in the military, Chief Warrant Officer Ray M. Noble, senior maintenance technician for the 3rd Infantry Division, still feels the same way about his service: “For me, it’s my commitment to my country, nothing more nothing less.”

His son Capt. Tom M. Noble, assistant team chief and operations officer for the 2-3-1 National Police Transition Team, agrees.

Both Macon, Ga., natives are currently deployed and for the second time in their military careers, they find themselves wearing the marne patch on their uniforms together. Back in 1999, when Capt. Noble was a second lieutenant, he and

his father were stationed together at Fort Stewart with 3rd Inf. Div. This is the closest they have been stationed to each other since then.

“I feel quite proud to be serving in the same theater as my son,” CW5 Noble said.

CW5 Noble is about halfway through his deployment and Capt. Noble is just beginning his tour, but both keep up with each other through e-mail and phone calls.

“We’re so close, about a 35-minute drive away from each other, but those 35 minutes seem to last forever,” Capt. Noble said.

Capt. Noble said he always knew he would join the military and always enjoyed the military growing up.

“I remember my dad saying, ‘When you stop having fun, it’s time to move on,’” Capt. Noble said. “I’m still



Staff Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Chief Warrant Officer Ray M. Noble and his son Capt. Tom M. Noble reunite for some family bonding time at Task Force Marne Headquarters on Camp Victory.

having fun.”

About his service in the military he adds, “I volunteered, I believe in it ... and by the time we leave, I know

we’ll make a difference.”

“I’m very happy for him ... it’s something great for him to do in his life,” CW5 Noble said.

SUCCESS: *Hammer Soldiers kill two insurgents in Al Bawi air assault*

From Page 1

Insurgents had been using the farmhouse of a displaced family to stage attacks on Coalition Forces and rival insurgent factions.

At the direction of the Company B commander, Capt. Rich Thompson, from West Palm Beach, Fla., Soldiers from Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, fired three 210mm rockets from an M270 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System to destroy the building

with the cache inside.

The 2-4th FA is based out of Fort Sill, Okla.

“This air assault helped us support the Concerned Local Citizens and will help them occupy check points,” said Capt. Todd Barrett, from Huntington Beach, Calif., the scout platoon leader in Headquarters Company, 1-15th Inf. Regt. “These checkpoints will help control extremist activity.”

Battalion leaders expressed their satisfaction with the successful mission.

“Our operations are having a profound impact on our area of operations and the extremist who try to operate within the area, said Maj. Steven Delgado, from Los Angeles, the 1-15th Inf. Regt. executive officer. “We have greatly reduced the number of IEDs (improvised explosive devices) within Task Force 1-15’s area of operations, detained or killed many extremist leaders, market areas are thriving and people are no longer afraid to leave their homes.”

Safety Thought of the Day

Individual Safety: What Can You Do?

- Protect your eyes — you only get two. Wear approved ballistic eye protection. Consult the Authorized Protective Eyewear List.
- Wear hearing protection as required.
- Protect your head by wearing your ACH as required.
- Wear serviceable footwear (inspect for holes and worn tread).
- Use a flashlight and/or reflective garments during hours of darkness (tactical situation dictates).
- Take the time to ensure three points of contact

when climbing ladders, stairs, etc.

- Wear your seatbelt, practice rollover drills, water & fire egress procedures.
- Battle Buddies: travel in pairs. The enemy is vigilant and waiting for the right moment to cause harm.
- Maintain situational awareness at all times (do not let your guard down).
- Maintain good physical condition and weapon proficiency.
- Use S.T.O.P.P.: Stop, Think, Observe, Plan, Proceed.

Headline Highlights

Prisoner's cockroach lawsuit; race-car taxi

'Missing' Brit canoeist grew beard as disguise

LONDON (Reuters) — A British man, who is facing fraud charges after he "returned from the dead" five years after going missing, had grown a beard and used an assumed name to hide the fact he was still alive, police said Monday.

John Darwin, 57, walked into a London police station last week claiming amnesia after apparently drowning at sea in a canoeing accident five years ago, sparking days of international media coverage.

Cleveland Police in northeast England issued a photo of Darwin with a straggly beard and appealed for information from anyone who might have known him under the name John Jones. Earlier Monday Darwin was remanded in custody until December 14 at Hartlepool Magistrates Court charged with obtaining money by deception and making a false declaration to get a passport.

Police said they had also started questioning his wife Anne, 55, who they arrested on suspicion of fraud Sunday following her return from Panama, where she had recently moved.

Detective Superintendent Tony Hutchinson told reporters that Mrs Darwin was cooperating with police.

Hutchinson said there was nothing to suggest that couple's sons were anything other than victims of the suspected deception, adding that he felt "dreadfully sorry" for them.

"They have believed for the past five years their father is dead," said

Hutchinson.

The sons said last week they wanted no further contact with their parents after their mother told newspapers a photo of her and her husband taken together in Panama last year was real.

Hutchinson said the motive for Darwin's reappearance and earlier disappearance remained unknown.

He said Darwin's sons could not identify any event which could have triggered the disappearance, but said police would investigate whether there were financial issues.

International coverage of the case had resulted in "countless calls" to police with information about the couple as well as emails from Spain and the Caribbean, Hutchinson said.

He appealed for the flow of information to continue. Anne Darwin had reported her husband missing in 2002 when he failed to return home after canoeing in the North Sea near their home in Hartlepool, northeast England. A few weeks later the shattered remains of his red kayak were discovered.

A coroner declared Darwin dead in 2003 after a police inquiry.

Prisoner paid over roaches

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — An Israeli judge has ordered the country's prison authority to pay an inmate over \$1,000 in compensation after he complained of having to share a cell with cockroaches.

Mordechai Yehudai filed a lawsuit complaining of poor hygiene, a lack of fresh air, broken windows and inmates who smoke in a handful of cells,

a spokeswoman for the Israel Prisons Service said.

"The Prisons Service mistreated the plaintiff in a number of ways, including ... broken windows, cockroaches as well as incarceration with smokers," judge Irit Cohen wrote in her verdict, according to newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth.

The spokeswoman said the inmate's cell would be cleaned up. Yehudai has been held in three different prisons and has had complaints about conditions in all of them.

"Prisoners have the right to sue us whenever they see fit and we comply with the court's rulings," she said.

Race car driver ousts taxi driver to catch flight

BERLIN (Reuters) — Michael Schumacher can add the unofficial title of Germany's fastest taxi driver to his other achievements after taking over behind the wheel to get his family to the airport on time.

The retired Formula One champion drove the cab back to the airport himself after a trip out to the village of Gehuelz, near Coburg in southern Germany, left the family short of time to make their flight home, the Muenchner Abendzeitung newspaper reported.

"It was crazy having Schumi driving, with me in the passenger seat," the taxi driver was quoted as saying.

The seven-times world champion, who stopped racing last year but is still involved in the sport as an occasional tester for Ferrari, gave the driver a 100 euro (\$146.6) tip on top of the 60-euro fare, the newspaper said.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

How long have they been there? *ish-ged sar-il-hoom eh-nak?*