

Sol, Soldiers find, raid torture house

2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

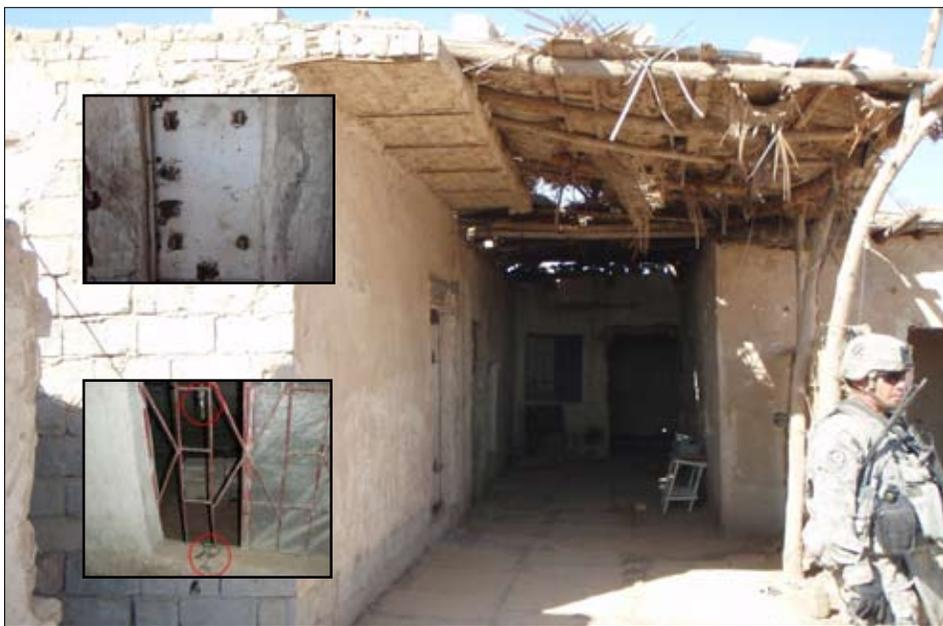
FOB KALSU, Iraq – Sons of Iraq led Coalition forces to an al-Qaeda in Iraq torture house and prison in northern Zambraniyah March 5.

The patrol was conducted based on intelligence provided by an SoI leader in the area, said Capt. Chris O’Brian, troop commander of Troop C, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, currently attached to 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

“The guy wants to clean up the area,” said O’Brian, a native of Herndon, Va. “AQI killed half his family.” The SoI leader, who heads a group of 300 SoI, worked with his men in support of Troop C Soldiers on the patrol.

The patrol began early in the morning as Soldiers cleared houses in an area suspected of harboring insurgents, said O’Brian.

During the initial phase of the mission, the group came under small arms fire. Reacting to contact, the enemy,



Courtesy photos

Soldiers of Troop C, 6th Squadron, 8th Cav. Reg., 4/3 BCT, discovered an insurgent torture house while on patrol in Zambraniyah March 5. Insets: (Top) The hooks on door were used to hang people according to Sol and (bottom) handcuffs attached to a window bar were found located near a set of open wires connected to an on/off switch. Soldiers believe the instruments were used to torture individuals.

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Soldiers bring water for citizens of Narhwan

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

FOB HAMMER – Soldiers from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team delivered 240 cases of bottled water to the Sons of Iraq headquarters in Narhwan, a town east of Baghdad, March 5.

“Water is very important here,” said Sgt. Lucas Walrod, from Panama, N.Y., a squad leader in Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, currently attached to the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery. “There is a shortage of potable

water here so it is greatly appreciated when we deliver it. It is one of the main ways we help the community.”

The water will be distributed by the SoI to town residents. Walrod pointed out that the SoI will play a key role by doing so. In previous operations, Troop B distributed the water themselves, but many citizens were unable to attend the water drops.

“We deliver it here and Sheik Kasum (the leader of the Narhwan SoI) hands it out to the people who need it,” Walrod said. “The Sons of Iraq have an un-

biased system of getting it out to all the people here ... They are really good at it because they are from here and know the people they are helping. Having the Sons of Iraq deliver it also adds to their legitimacy here. The people can actually see that the group is here to help them when they do things like deliver water.”

Kasum said he uses 40 different agents to identify needy families and distribute food to them. The agents

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Long-awaited PX now open on FOB Delta

SGT. 1ST CLASS KAREN BROWN
214TH FB

FOB DELTA – After months of waiting for a normal Army and Air Force Exchange Service post exchange, Soldiers and civilians at FOB Delta finally got their wish with the opening of a PX March 4.

“This is just the beginning of what is to come to Delta to improve quality of life for all,” said Col. Peter Baker, the 214th Fires Brigade commander. “A lot of improvements like this will happen this year.”

Some Soldiers waited in line as long as two hours to be the first to see and buy from the PX.

“I am glad it’s open because they have Monster (energy drink) in there,” said Spc. Anthony Sage, an Aerostat operator with 214th FB. “I am tired of waiting on my mail. Now I can just buy my stuff.”

In the past, the exchange was housed in one room with only basic necessities and a small selection of comfort items for sale.

Cpl. Kenneth Bournival and Spc. Mathew Brodka ran the makeshift exchange since the 214th FB took control of FOB Delta June 20.

“I’m glad to have been a part of being able to serve the FOB,” Bournival said of his work. “I’m very excited because



Staff Sgt. Stewart Marshall
Ursula Draper, the PX manager, serves cake to customers at the new FOB Delta PX.

now we are able to offer a full service PX instead of the small one we had.”

The PX is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. The exchange accepts credit cards, debit cards, Eagle Cash Cards and Military Star cards. Western Union services are also available.

TORTURE

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who was observed wearing black, ran away.

As the patrol continued, the group discovered a man dressed in black in a suspected AQI safe house. The man was detained on suspicion of involvement in insurgent activities and the likelihood that he was involved in the earlier attack.

SoIs are pointing out the bad guys in the neighborhood, O’Brien said, adding that they have also provided actionable intelligence.

Much of that intelligence indicated that there may be an AQI prison or torture house in the town, O’Brien said, noting that he was receiving reports on the possibility for the past week.

That intelligence led Soldiers to a house full of materials used by insurgents for torture.

O’Brien said they discovered hand cuffs, an electrocution system consisting of bare wires linked to an on / off switch running to handcuffs on a window bar, and hanging hooks used for humans. Twelve interrogation books written in Arabic were found along with several sets of female clothing. A bloody handprint was also present.

Daylight Saving Time

The U.S. will spring ahead an hour March 9 making it a seven hour difference between Eastern Standard Time and Baghdad time.

THE Dog Face Daily

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3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Abn. Division (Assault)
4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division
214th Fires Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

WATER: 240 cases of water delivered to SoI HQ for people of Narhwan

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use a ration card system to ensure that each family is getting the amount they require and to limit people from stockpiling more than they need.

According to Soldiers, the roads in Narhwan are secure because of the performance of the SoI and goodwill brought about by projects like water and food drops.

“I get a good feeling coming down here because the routes are secure,” said 1st Lt. Jose Mendoza, from Fresno, Calif., a platoon leader from Company G, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, currently attached to 1-10th FA. “I have not been shot at or hit by an IED (improvised explosive device) this entire deployment. I credit the clearance teams and Soldiers for making sure the routes are secure, but the Sons of Iraq checkpoints have played a big part in the security of the roads here as well. They have been doing a good job and are working with us.”

The 3-1st Cav. Regt., 203rd BSB and 1-10th FA are assigned to the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Benning, Ga., and have been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.

SoI and males volunteering for service in the Iraqi Security Forces.

“The people of Janabi approached us, saying they bet on the wrong horse,” Zimmerman said. “Many of them were former (al-Qaeda) members not even three weeks ago.”

The reconciliation of former al-Qaeda members has allowed progress in



Photo by Spc. Ben Hutto

Spc. Justin Brock, Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, helps Sons of Iraq of Narhwan unload drinking water provided by 3rd HBCT for citizens of Narhwan, at their headquarters March 5.

the area.

“They have actually gone out and dug up improvised explosive devices which they had planted, turned in weapon caches and have shown dedication toward working together with the Coalition and Iraqi Army forces,” Zimmerman said.

A total of 314 people, including 130 women, were seen by three Iraqi doc-

tors at the CME.

“Safety was a major concern going into the mission, especially with the history of the area,” Waters said.

Now, the community is taking steps toward a more peaceful lifestyle.

“Part of what was once known as the Triangle of Death is now (becoming) a model for Iraq to follow,” Zimmerman said.

Safety Thought of the Day

Stop, Think, Observe, Plan and Proceed

- Maintain situational awareness--- Recognize the potential hazards and dress appropriately.
- Wear approved ballistic eye protection on or off the FOB, COP, PB or JSS.
- Wear hearing protection when needed: around generators, maintenance areas, firing ranges, while on combat patrol or where in areas marked “high noise

- area.”
- Seatbelts are required to be worn by all operators and passengers in vehicles.
- Wear appropriate gloves for the task to protect the hands.
- Wear serviceable footwear (inspect for holes and worn tread).
- Remember - wearing the proper PPE can save Life, Limb & Eyesight.

Headline Highlights

French can't die; Bush dines with McCain; high on Sinai

Mayor tells locals not to die

BORDEAUX, France (Reuters) – The mayor of a village in southwest France has threatened residents with severe punishment if they die, because there is no room left in the overcrowded cemetery to bury them.

In an ordinance posted in the council offices, Mayor Gerard Lalanne told the 260 residents of the village of Sarpourenx that “all persons not having a plot in the cemetery and wishing to be buried in Sarpourenx are forbidden from dying in the parish.”

It added: “Offenders will be severely punished.”

The mayor said he was forced to take drastic action after an administrative court in the nearby town of Pau ruled in January that the acquisition of adjoining private land to extend the cemetery would not be justified.

Lalanne, who celebrated his 70th birthday on Wednesday and is standing for election to a seventh term in this month's local elections, said he was sorry that there had not been a positive outcome to the dilemma.

“It may be a laughing matter for some, but not for me,” he said.

Bush, McCain dine on hot dogs in White House lunch

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (Reuters) – President George W. Bush may have given presumptive Republican presidential nominee John McCain the

royal treatment at the White House on Wednesday, but the two men did not exactly have a meal fit for a king.

McCain, an Arizona senator, picked up the president's endorsement for his candidacy while dining on something simple: a hot dog.

“He said he was having a hot dog, so I had a hot dog,” McCain, referring to Bush, told reporters on his campaign plane during a flight to Florida.

So does a hot dog taste any different when it's prepared in the White House?

“It tasted pretty much the same to me,” McCain said.

Bush formally endorsed his former rival after the 71-year-old locked up their party's presidential nomination on Tuesday night.

The two men discussed foreign affairs, the war in Iraq, and the process of selecting a vice president during lunch, McCain said.

Bush welcomed McCain and his wife, Cindy, in a formal entrance and held a joint news conference with his would-be-successor in the famous Rose Garden after their meal.

Biblical Israelites may have been high on hallucinogenics

JERUSALEM (Reuters) – The biblical Israelites may have been high on a hallucinogenic plant when Moses brought the Ten Commandments down from Mount Sinai, according to a new study by an Israeli psychology profes-

sor.

Writing in the British journal Time and Mind, Benny Shanon of Jerusalem's Hebrew University said two plants in the Sinai desert contain the same psychoactive molecules as those found in plants from which the powerful Amazonian hallucinogenic brew ayahuasca is prepared.

The thunder, lightning and blaring of a trumpet which the Book of Exodus says emanated from Mount Sinai could just have been the imaginings of a people in an “altered state of awareness,” Shanon hypothesized.

“In advanced forms of ayahuasca intoxication, the seeing of light is accompanied by profound religious and spiritual feelings,” Shanon wrote.

“On such occasions, one often feels that in seeing the light, one is encountering the ground of all Being ... many identify this power as God.”

Shanon wrote that he was very familiar with the affects of the ayahuasca plant, having “partaken of the ... brew about 160 times in various locales and contexts.”

He said one of the psychoactive plants, harmal, found in the Sinai and elsewhere in the Middle East, has long been regarded by Jews in the region as having magical and curative powers.

Some biblical scholars were unimpressed. Orthodox rabbi Yuval Sherlow told Israel Radio: “The Bible is trying to convey a very profound event. We have to fear not for the fate of the biblical Moses, but for the fate of science.”

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Map

KHa-ree-tah