

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne



Sgt. Ben Brody

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Williams (right) and 1st Lt. Josh Ray, both with Company C, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, drink chai with tribal leaders and discuss humanitarian and infrastructure aid projects in Musayyib, Iraq.

Soldiers meet with sheikhs, chase insurgents

SGT. BEN BRODY
4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – “It seems quiet out there, but there’s always a calm before the storm,” said the burly platoon sergeant as he tightened the straps on his helmet. “We have to take care of the people and get the bad guys.”

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Williams, the platoon sergeant, and Soldiers of Company C, 3rd Battalion,

7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, jumped in their Humvees at Forward Operating Base Iskan, Iraq, with that mindset.

As the heavy vehicles lumbered through the date palm groves in Abu Jassim, near Musayyib, a group of sheikhs waved to them from the brick archway in a large farmhouse’s courtyard.

Williams and 1st Lt. Josh Ray, the

platoon leader, jumped out and greeted the sheikhs, as the rest of the platoon pulled security around the isolated compound. The group discussed an upcoming infrastructure project, a road paving project that they are working together to bring to fruition. The plan to pave the road would cost \$24,000 and employ about 100 local laborers, according to Williams, who

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3rd CAB reaches yearly re-up goal in 6 months

3RD COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

CAMP STRIKER – The Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division reached its re-enlistment goal for fiscal year 2008 during a ceremony at the 3rd CAB flightline at Baghdad International Airport, March 14.

The goal was reached in only 6 months.

Spc. Travis Akina, from Honolulu, Hawaii, an Apache helicopter mechanic with Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, was the final Soldier to re-enlist, pushing the 3rd CAB over the edge.

Akina was one of the Soldiers set to get out of the Army in 2008 and fell into the FY08 Expiration Term of Service category.

“We had more than 100 percent in all other categories,” said Master Sgt. Barry Norris, senior career counselor, 3rd CAB. “But we needed some from

the people whose (end of tour separation) was 2008.”

Staff Sgt. Olympia Rios, the 1-3rd Avn. Regt. career counselor, said Akina re-enlisted the day after he was supposed to get out of the Army with his original enlistment’s timeline. Akina had been extended for the deployment under the Army’s stop-loss program.

Akina said he re-enlisted based on his love of country and his wife’s support for the decision, herself a former Soldier. The benefits the Army provides for his family also influenced his decision.



Courtesy photo

Spc. Travis Akina (right), takes the Oath of Enlistment, administered by 1st Lt. Joshua Hayward (left), March 14. Both Soldiers are from 1st Bn., 3rd Avn. Regt.

Also important, he said, is to love what you do. “I enjoy my job a lot and I feel proud every time I wear this uniform.”

Norris added just because the mission is complete doesn’t mean the 3rd CAB will stop re-enlisting Soldiers.

“We’ll still be re-enlisting Soldiers to support the division and the needs of the Army,” Norris said.



**Sergeant Major
Of The Army Recruiting Team**

ARMY STRONG

The Army’s recruiting referral program is receiving momentum with a directive from the Army vice chief of staff and a \$1,000 increase in the bonus.

Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Dick Cody has directed that all Soldiers register with Operation SMART, the Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team, at Web site www.usarec.army.mil/smart. The U.S. Army Accessions Command is tracking how many Soldiers have registered.

Individuals who register with SMART are eligible for the \$2,000 referral bonus for recruiting civilians. Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, to include Non-Appropriated Fund civilians are eligible to participate in the recruiting program. The bonus is paid in increments. The referrer will receive \$1,000 after the applicant completes basic training, and the last half will be paid after the applicant graduates from advanced individual training or one station unit training.

THE Dog Face Daily

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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

WORK

From page 1

is from Bloomington, Ill.

“A lot of little kids use this road to get to school and farmers drive heavy trucks on it, so the pavement would mean less wear and tear on their vehicles,” Williams said. “We like it because it’s harder to dig an (improvise explosive device) into a paved road.”

Sheikh Abbas, leader of the local Sons of Iraq program, also mentioned to the group that several of his checkpoints had recently come under small-arms fire in the evenings.

Sheikh Abbas, Ray and Williams agreed that more checkpoints, strategically located to counter the attacks, would be manned.

After the meeting with the sheikhs, Company C’s Staff Sgt. Tad McGill got a phone call stating a suspected insurgent wanted by the company had been sighted in Musayyib.

The Soldiers headed for the man’s house, searched it and the surrounding neighborhood, but according to his parents he had already fled.

Jumping over walls and dashing through dark alleys, part of the platoon tried to track down the fleeing man.

Observing brand-new sneaker prints in the mud behind the wall in the suspect’s backyard, Sgt. Brent Massey followed the tracks in hot pursuit. The Soldiers ultimately did not find the man and returned to his parents’ house.

SMA sees advancements



Sgt. 1st Class Kerensa Hardy

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Dodge, Company A, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), watch as Sgt. Francis Lagat, also of Co. A, 3rd STB, remotely controls a robot March 15 at Camp Striker.

“We left on good terms – any mother’s fear is that her child will be hurt, and we assured her that’s not the case if he turns himself in,” Williams said. “She wants him to clear his name so he can get married and her husband agreed to talk with his son about it.”

After leaving the suspect’s house, the platoon stopped in at a local supermarket to speak to some of the local residents.

Before the patrol left, Ray stepped inside and bought a case of orange soda for a group of children socializing under the store’s outside lights.

Safety Thought of the Day Trailer Towing Safety

- Ensure trailers are towed with the proper classification of vehicles.
 - A proper example is a water buffalo trailer attached to a LMTV or FMTV.
- Never attach a air-break equipped trailer to a vehicle without airlines.
 - The braking feature of a trailer will be rendered useless.
 - Useless brakes on a trailer may lead to a loss of control of the trailer and vehicle.
 - Water and fuel trailers, although baffled, can become unstable.
- Ensure the proper trailer PMCS is conducted IAW the appropriate “-10”
 - Manual brakes levers must function properly.
 - Ensure the air hoses have no defects and glad hand grommets make a proper air seal.
 - The support leg with crank handle is operable to raise and lower the trailer.
 - Trailers lights work properly.
- **RULE OF THUMB:** If the trailer can’t be lowered enough for a truck, it is not the vehicle for the load.

Headline Highlights

Ring flies high; coca usage defended; no more droopy pants

Honey, will you marry... Oh. Never mind...

LONDON (Reuters) – It is the one moment every man wants to get right – and which London floor-fitter Lefkos Hajji could hardly have got more wrong.

The luckless 28 year-old's dreams of giving his sweetheart, Leanne, 26, the ultimate proposal have literally vanished into thin air.

Hajji, of Hackney, east London, had concealed a \$12,000 engagement ring inside a helium balloon. The idea was that she would pop the balloon as he popped the question.

But as he left the shop, a gust of wind pulled the balloon from his hand and he watched the ring – and quite possibly the affections of his girlfriend – sailing away over the rooftops.

"I couldn't believe it," he told The Sun newspaper.

"I just watched as it went further and further into the air.

"I felt like such a plonker. It cost a fortune and I knew my girlfriend would kill me."

Hajji spent two hours in his car trying to chase and find the balloon, without success.

"I thought I would give Leanne a pin so I could literally pop the question," he said.

"But I had to tell her the story – she went absolutely mad. Now she is refusing to speak to me until I get her a new ring."

He is hoping the ring will still turn up.

"It would be amazing if someone found it," he added.

Traditional coca usage defended by lawmakers

LIMA (Reuters) – Lawmakers defiantly chewed coca in Peru's Congress on Thursday while criticizing a U.N. recommendation to criminalize traditional uses of the plant.

The coca leaf, the raw ingredient of cocaine, is used by millions of people to stave off hunger and fight altitude sickness. It is also used in teas, in cooking and by fortune tellers.

"The coca leaf has existed for thousands and thousands of years. It's part of our agriculture, our food and our medicine. It's sacred," Congresswoman Hilaria Supa told Reuters before the start of Thursday's session.

"The United Nations doesn't know our culture. It doesn't understand our values," she said.

Supa and Congresswoman Maria Sumire offered coca to their colleagues on the Congress floor from small hats. Dozens of politicians took handfuls and chewed the leaf during a raucous session with boos and hisses.

Earlier this month, the International Narcotics Control Board of the United Nations in its annual report urged Peru and Bolivia to ban coca chewing, with an eye toward cutting

cocaine production.

Jose Garcia Belaunde, Peru's foreign relations minister, says Peru's right to chew coca is protected as an Andean tradition.

Peru is the world's second largest coca producers after Colombia.

Droopy pants law passed

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (Reuters) – The Florida Senate wants public school students to pull up their pants. Lawmakers passed a bill Thursday that could mean suspensions for students with droopy britches.

It won't become law unless the House of Representatives passes a companion measure.

Florida could join several southern U.S. towns and cities that have passed "saggy pants" laws aimed at outlawing what some teenagers consider a fashion statement -- wearing pants half way down their buttocks, exposing flesh or underwear.

Supporters say schools sometimes don't properly police dress codes and parents are often "under aware" of what their kids are wearing to school.

Critics say the measure is unnecessary, arguing that appearance and dress codes should be the responsibility of school districts and parents.

The Florida city of Riviera Beach passed its own saggy pants law Tuesday, with a maximum penalty of 60 days in jail for repeat offenders.

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	4		1		8		7	
		7	9					
2				8	5	9		1
						8		7
4	7				9		2	

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to Saturday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

inside

joe-weh