

THE

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Serving Task Force Marne



Sgt. Natalie Rostek

Lt. Col. Jack Marr, commander of the 1-15th Inf. Regt. (right), and Capt. Rich Thompson, commander of Company B, 1-15 Inf. Regt., lead Iraqi military leaders and citizens across a newly-opened pontoon bridge March 15. The bridge links the shores of al Dura'iyā and Diwaniya, Iraq.

New bridge reconnects communities

SGT. NATALIE ROSTEK
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER – A new pontoon bridge linking the al Dura'iyā and Diwaniya banks of the Tigris River officially opened in a ceremony March 15.

Members of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team looked on as a ribbon

was cut on each side of the floating bridge which joins two communities separated by the Tigris River. A pontoon bridge historically connected the communities, but was destroyed prior to the arrival of the 3rd HBCT to the area.

After the ribbons were cut, Iraqi Security Forces and citizens from both sides of the river walked to the center

of the bridge and greeted each other with hand shakes and traditional Iraqi greetings.

According to Capt. Rich Thompson, commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, the bridge project took 10 days to complete, most of which was preparation

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Water pump station open in 2 BCT area

SGT. LUIS DELGADILLO
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – Baghdad province’s rural services committee chairman visited leaders from three rural farming communities in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division area of operations March 13.

The communities of Sayafiyah, Arab Jabour and Hawr Rajab conveyed the same message to Chairman Sobhy al Mashhadani – streets are safer and local leaders are willing to work with the Government of Iraq to receive assistance for infrastructure projects.

At the first stop, Mashhadani spoke at a meeting with sheikhs from the community of Sayafiyah, located on the western bank of the Tigris River.

Mashhadani’s second stop was a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Yusifiyah Pump Station 1, in Arab Jabour.

After their arrival in June, Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, set to work securing Arab Jabour and assisting with rebuilding the area’s critical infrastructure. One of the area’s most important projects was the repair and refurbishment

One of the area’s most important projects was the repair and refurbishment of Yusifiyah Water Pump Station 1.

of Yusifiyah Water Pump Station 1.

With the majority of Arab Jabour residents dependent on water to keep their farms running, the three remaining functional pumps barely provided enough water to keep its canal system full.

Avoiding bureaucratic delays, Coalition forces worked directly with the Ministry of Irrigation and hired contractors to deliver, repair and emplace the new pumps. Nine of the 12 pumps were open at the time of the ribbon cutting.

The chairman also visited Patrol Base Hawkes and met with Rashid District’s Iraqi Police Chief, Lt. Col. Muhammed, who was conducting the last day of a four-day IP recruiting drive. The drive was the first-ever for the region.

Mashhadani’s last stop was Hawr Rajab, where he met students at the Village of Hope, a vocational school designed to train citizens in the basics of construction.

He spoke to the group of more than 50 students to reinforce the importance

of self-sufficiency and reconstruction.

While in Hawr Rajab, Mashhadani also toured a school in session and a



Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Sobhy Al-Mashhadani, Baghdad province’s rural services committee chairman, cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of Yusifiyah Pump House 1 in Arab Jabour March 13.

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THE Dog Face Daily

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214th Fires Brigade
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BRIDGE

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for the actual construction.

Thompson, a native of West Palm Beach, Fla., said after Company B Soldiers secured both sides of the river, Soldiers from the 814th Multi-Role Bridge Company and the 74th Engineer Dive Team took just eight hours to set and anchor the bridge.

Before the opening, Soldiers from Company B drove a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle (MRAP) and a Humvee over the bridge to test its durability.

Thompson said members of the Sons of Iraq will secure both shores of the bridge.

“People wanted the bridge to get between the Diwaniya area and the al Dura’iya area,” he said. “The bridge is their link to Salman Pak so they can transport their produce and agricultural products. They are big farming communities so this bridge really helps their economy.”

Thomson said the bridge also significantly decreases the travel time to the hospital in Salman Pak for the residents of Diwaniya.

Lt. Col. Jack Marr, from Minneapolis, commander of the 1-15th Inf. Regt., said citizens will be able to travel on the bridge during daylight hours. If someone needs to cross the bridge at night, they must have a local or tribal



Sgt. Natalie Rostek

Gen. Adnon, commander of the Iraqi Police from the Mada’in Qada, holds the ribbon as Sheikh Kareem, head sheikh of al Dura’iya, cuts it during a ceremony March 15 opening a pontoon bridge for travel between al Dura’iya and Diwaniya, Iraq.

leader contact the battalion.

Marr sees the bridge opening as more than a means of improving mobility for local residents. In a speech before the ribbon-cutting, Marr said the bridge symbolizes a bridge built to fortify the relationships between all Iraqi citizens as well as their relationships with Coalition forces.

Col. Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr., from Prince George’s County, Md., commander of the 3rd HBCT also attended the opening.

The 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga., has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.

WATER

From previous page

school and medical clinic in their final days of reconstruction. Though the school and clinic are being renovated with Coalition funds, plans are in the works to have the Ministries of Education and Health staff the facilities.

Though these rural communities have tribal and community leaders who cooperate with Coalition forces to take care of security and emergency relief projects, many of the rural communities lack official representation from the GoI.

Hussein Shaho, bilingual, bicultural adviser with the Baghdad-7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, said larger councils such as the Rashid District council, which is responsible for many of the communities in the 2nd BCT area of operations, are making strides establishing ties with sheikhs and tribal leaders.

Prior to the arrival of the 2nd BCT, Shaho said the Rashid District council was unable to reach residents in the area south of Baghdad because of al-Qaeda’s overwhelming presence in the area.

In a display of solidarity with the people of the farming communities, Mashhadani’s message was that the fledgling community governance councils do matter and they would have a voice.

Safety Thought of the Day Heat Injury Prevention

- Weak Link Rule: When the first heat casualty occurs, assess the status of the whole unit.
- Heat strain and dehydration can accumulate over several days before causing heat illness; therefore, during recovery periods, emphasize rest, shade, hydration, and eating.
- Drink liquids that contain some added salt or electrolytes for heat cramps.
- Signs of overheating include the inability to work, flushed face, confusion, disorientation and fainting.
- Identify previous heat casualties as they are more susceptible to becoming a heat casualty again.
- If a Soldier is a heat casualty, cooling is first priority- it can reduce mortality from 5-50%.
- Move patient out of the hot environment.
- Provide air conditioning, if available.
- Remove the patient’s clothing (IBA/ACH/ACU shirt/boots).
- Apply cold packs to the patient’s neck, armpits, and groin. Drench torso in water.
- Fan vigorously. Aggressive fanning is VERY EFFECTIVE. (Stop if shivering occurs!)
- Start IV with Normal Saline while awaiting evacuation* (Again, DO NOT USE HEXTEND)
- MAKE SURE YOU HAVE STARTED EVERYTHING TO COOL BODY BEFORE GIVING IV FLUIDS

Headline Highlights

Cat grant voided; great-grandmother beats purse-snatcher

Tiny Iowa town, new task force call off \$5 cat bounty

DES MOINES, Iowa – Cat haters, nevermind: The tiny town of Randolph has rescinded a \$5 bounty on feral feline.

Instead, the southwest Iowa town of 200 people has agreed to work with animal rescue groups on a catch, neuter and release program.

“We’ve told them to get it lined up to do it,” Mayor Vince Trively said Friday.

The City Council approved the bounty after receiving numerous complaints about feral cats. Under the initial policy, which went into effect March 1, stray cats without collars would be taken to a veterinarian, and if they weren’t claimed, they’d be euthanized. That caused an uproar among animal lovers.

On Thursday, the city voted to end the bounty and form a task force involving three organizations, Maryland-based Alley Cat Allies, Best Friends Animal Society of Utah and Feline Friendz in Nebraska.

“We’re very keenly interested in helping this community. The mayor is reaching out for help,” said Barbara Williamson of the Best Friends group.

The task force will meet next week to devise a plan, which the City Council will consider on Thursday, said Elizabeth Parowski, spokeswoman for Alley Cat Allies.

“What will happen is the cats that are truly feral will return to the outdoors

and the cats that are strays that are actually socialized will be adopted into homes,” Parowski said.

Sherry Haftings of Feline Friendz said she already has several veterinarians lined up to help, but a lot more needs to be done.

“There’s going to be shelters that need to be built, cat food that needs to be donated, traps that we need, towels that we need,” she said. “There’s a lot of who’s going to coordinate which end of it.”

Trively still wants the cats gone — and said returning them to town is not a solution.

“How would you like it if a dozen cats come around there every morning as you tried to feed pets and they gobble up food and chased your pets away and then left a calling card on your yard or walk to step on?” he asked.

When the bounty was in place, two cats — one of them pregnant — were turned in. The mayor said the first cat was ill and died.

Feline Friendz eventually picked up the second cat. Haftings said it was doing fine.

Woman foils purse snatcher

SANTA FE, N.M. – An 83-year-old great-grandmother thwarted a would-be purse snatcher with a gas nozzle and an iron grip.

Bernie Garcia said a young man approached her at a gas station as she was buying fuel for her van and asked

for money. When she told him she had spent all her spare change on gas, he tried to grab her purse.

“But I had it wrapped around my wrist twice,” Garcia said, and he was unable to pull it away.

She fought back, spraying his shirt with some gasoline. Both of them kept hold of the purse, and he pulled her to the ground and dragged her a short distance until another man confronted him.

The second man demanded, “Turn her loose, you something something,” Garcia said.

The would-be mugger jumped into a nearby vehicle and fled. But a witness got the license plate number, and minutes later, police stopped the car. It had been reported stolen from Espanola, said Santa Fe Deputy Police Chief Aric Wheeler.

Garcia and a witness identified one of the men inside as the attacker. He and two other men in the car were charged with robbery and conspiracy.

“They got caught and I’m so glad,” Garcia said.

She said she felt fine after the attack, and police say she declined medical attention at the scene. But when she got home, she said, she felt faint and went to bed and woke up Thursday very sore. Her son, a former firefighter, checked her out and found no broken bones.

“My son said, ‘Why didn’t you just give (the purse) up?’” Garcia said. “‘Hell no,’ I told him. That was my purse. I was fighting for what was mine.”

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

outside

burr-reh