

# THE Dog Face Daily

Volume 1, Issue 34

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*Serving Task Force Marne*



Sgt. Ben Brody

*Iraqi soldiers force a locked door open during a search of homes in Al Dhour Monday morning.*

## Joint air assault operation nets suspects

**SGT. BEN BRODY**  
TF MARNE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGHDAD – In an increasingly common display of interagency cooperation, Iraqi army soldiers and Iraqi National Police, aided by U.S. forces, conducted a raid in Al Dhour Monday morning, netting four suspected insurgents.

As darkness fell that night, soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, along with Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, boarded UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to stealthily cordon off the targeted neighborhood.

### **The element of surprise**

Once on the ground, joint teams moved quickly and quietly on foot, using moonlight and night vision goggles to navigate the uneven terrain, crisscrossed with irrigation ditches.

Once the dismounted teams were in place, Iraqi National Police arrived in Badger armored vehicles to reinforce the cordon, freeing the dismounts to search homes in the former Republican Guard housing area.

“We’ve previously found weapons in this area, and we suspect the neighborhood was used as a staging area for recent car bomb attacks,” said Maj. Steve Sim-

kins, 1-89 Cav. operations officer. “It’s an important transition point for militants moving in and out of southern Baghdad.”

Within the cordon, the force searched about 100 homes looking for suspects. As the primarily Iraqi force moved down Al Dhour’s dark streets, the line of local men grew steadily behind them. Women watched the quiet procession from their rooftops.

After all the neighborhood’s homes were searched four wanted men were caught. Those four were transported to a detention facility, while the others were

**See RAID, Page 3**

## 2/10 celebrates Asian-Pacific Islander Month

STAFF SGT. ANGELA MCKINZIE  
2/10TH MTN. DIV. (LI) PAO

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq — It is common knowledge the Army is made up of a diverse fighting force — different nationalities, genders and religious backgrounds.

To honor the Army's diversity, Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) from Fort Drum, N.Y., celebrated Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month Saturday during a ceremony on Camp Striker, Iraq.

"May is Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month — a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States," said Staff Sgt. Jerry Moses, the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT equal opportunity representative.

"In 1992, President George H.W. Bush designated May to be Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month. And tonight we are commemorating how the Asian-Pacific Islanders have helped create what our country is today, he said."

To kick off the celebration, Chaplain (Capt.) Daniel Kang, the 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd BCT and native of Seoul, Korea, gave some insight of how different Soldiers' background blend together to create a unique organization.

"You can kind of refer the different

Soldiers' backgrounds to a bowl of salad," Kang explained. "You have many different ingredients that make a salad. And same goes with the Army — there are many different backgrounds to create a great organization."

After Kang gave his speech, Soldiers watched Generation X, an Asian-Pacific Islander music group who sang about the Civil War in the Philippines.

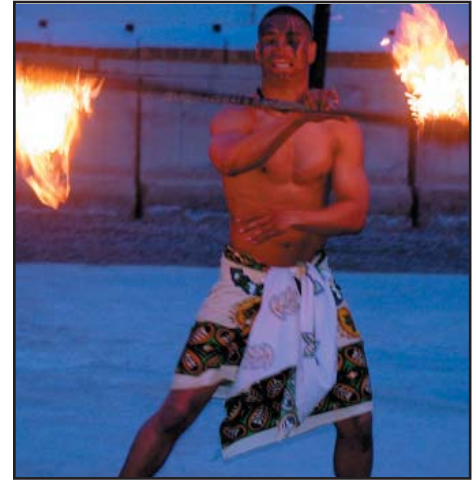
Soldiers took a minute to share their thoughts during the observance.

"My wife is a Pacific Islander and it was nice to see this observance commemorating them (the Pacific Islanders)," said Sgt. Steven Pitts, a 210th BSB operations sergeant.

To further give others an understanding of the Asian-Pacific Islander culture a Soldier from Saipan performed the Fire Dance, an ancient warrior tradition in Saipan.

"At home this dance was a warrior dance for people to get ready for battle," said Pfc. A.J. Mettao, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT aviation operations specialist. "The warriors would fire dance with paint on their face and get everyone motivated."

Mettao's rendition of the Fire Dance gathered a large crowd who watched every move and twirl made with the stick of



Sgt. Angela McKinzie

**Pfc. A.J. Mettao performs the Fire Dance, and ancient Saipan warrior tradition during the Asian-Pacific Islander Observance Saturday at Camp Striker.**

fire.

"I just ... wanted to represent all of the people back home — all of the Islander's that can't be out here," Mettao said. "I just want to let them know that even though I am in the Army I still have their back — I am still rooting for them."

The ceremony ended with smiles and Soldiers' better understanding of the Asian-Pacific Islander culture.

"I have never seen anything like this before," Pitts added. "It (the show) was amazing."

## Paratroopers capture explosives emplacements

4/25TH INF. DIV. (ABN.)  
MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION — CENTER PAO

KALSU, Iraq — Paratroopers arrested two men suspected of planting improvised explosive devices in southern Baghdad this morning.

Paratroopers from 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division caught the two suspects while conducting a security patrol on Highway 1. The men tested positive for exposure to explosive material. The two suspects are being held for further questioning.

## THE Dog Face Daily

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2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry)  
4th Brigade (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division

sent home.

“We decided to air assault on the objective to catch the insurgent element by surprise,” Simkins said. “If we just drove in, they could see us coming from about five kilometers away.”

Leaving as unobtrusively as they arrived, the Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers melted back into the dark fields outside of town and met with the helicopters that brought them in. Minutes later, the troops were back at Camp Striker, congratulating each other on a job well done and discussing their options for breakfast.

### Training the Iraqi army

The U.S. Soldiers who participated in the mission are members of 1-89 CAV’s Military Transition Team, a unit that is responsible for training Iraqi soldiers to work effectively, and ultimately, independently.

“The Iraqi soldiers who are picked for the air assault missions are the really squared-away guys,” said Sgt. Jerrod Solomon, a nine-month veteran of the 1-89 Cav. MiTT. “We’ve got guys from all over Baghdad, with all different backgrounds, working together as a team.”

Solomon, of Augusta, Ga., and the bulk of the 1-89 Cav MiTT are based at Lion’s Den, a patrol base where U.S. and Iraqi troops live and work together.

According to Simkins, nine months ago the soldiers of 3/4/6 Iraqi army battalion operated three traffic checkpoints and their base was mortared every day.

“We worked with their staff to get the intel picture of their area, and got them out patrolling their streets,” Simkins said. “At the squad and platoon level, they’ve

made great progress.”

The mortars stopped falling as the Iraqi unit’s influence grew in their area of operations. The purchase of new, heavily armored vehicles like the Badger has increased the Iraqi troops’ confidence, Simkins said.

“The next step for the unit is to have them finding their own intelligence, using that intel to plan operations and executing without assistance,” Simkins said.

### Working together

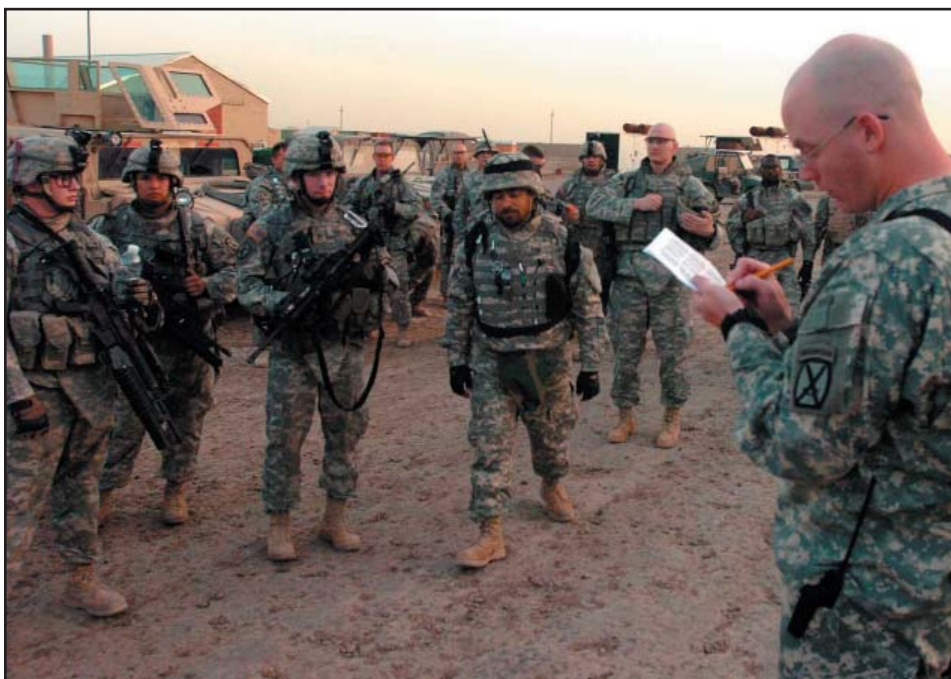
Seeing U.S. and Iraqi forces working together is nothing new. But this operation highlighted an increasing push to

coordinate operations between the Iraqi national police and the Iraqi army.

Forces from 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi National Police Division, who operate checkpoints on a highway near Al Dhour, brought several vehicles to strengthen the cordon around the neighborhood.

A car bomb attack on one of the INP checkpoints, likely staged from Al Dhour, hardened the police force’s resolve to secure the neighborhood, Simkins said.

“The army and the INPs worked together pretty well,” Simkins said. “The locals can look out their front door and see the cooperation.”



Sgt. Ben Brody

**1st Sgt. Eric Usbeck, C Troop, 1/89 Cav., calls out the flight manifest rolls before a raid on Al Dhour Monday morning.**

## Safety Thought of the Day

### UXO Safety

- Stand clear of suspected UXO’s.
- Mark the area and submit a UXO report.
- Caution Soldiers against collecting dud rounds, bomblets or suspected UXO’s for souvenirs.
- For more information on UXO procedures, reference GTA 9-12-1 and FM 21-16, Unexploded Ordnance Procedures, 30 Aug 94

**Remember: If you didn’t drop it, don’t pick it up!**

**UXOs are an EOD mission only.**

# HEADLINE HIGHLIGHTS

## Couple burned alive for 'black magic'

REUTERS

HYDERABAD, India – An elderly Indian husband and wife were burnt to death after villagers accused them of practicing black magic, tied them together on a pyre and set them on fire, police said Thursday.

“The aged couple died screaming for help,” said police superintendent P.V. Sunil Kumar.

Sayanna, 70, and his 61-year-old wife, Pochamma, were set ablaze after being doused with kerosene.

Both were farm laborers near the southern city of Hyderabad who also practiced traditional medicine. Police have arrested six villagers for the incident.

Belief in black magic is common in some parts of rural India, despite the country’s robust economic growth and cutting-edge high-technology industries.

Dozens of women are murdered each year after being accused of witch-

craft.

Last year, a barber in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh killed his four-year-old son by slitting his throat with a razor after the man started seeing visions of the Hindu goddess Kali demanding a sacrifice.

## Magazine seeks 'nice' Canada's greatest villains

REUTERS

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – A Canadian history magazine plans to highlight how a country stereotyped for its polite and somewhat boring citizenry is also home to its share of scoundrels through a survey seeking “the worst Canadian.”

“Our international reputation has us as this very nice, quiet, friendly place,” said Deborah Morrison, president of Canada’s National History Society, which publishes The Beaver magazine.

“We thought it would be fun to show people our seamier side and take a look

at some of our more villainous characters, and how they’ve helped to shape our country,” Morrison said.

So far, visitors to the magazine’s Web site at [www.thebeaver.ca](http://www.thebeaver.ca) have nominated pop singers like Celine Dion and Shania Twain as well as criminals and prime ministers, she said.

But she said currently in the lead is “somebody only Canadians could know and hate:” the late Harold Ballard, former owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team.

“We take our hockey very seriously,” Morrison said.


Ballard, a self-described misanthropic “miserable old bastard” was loathed by fans and served time in jail for fraud and tax evasion.

The magazine’s August 1 issue will publish poll results for “Canada’s most foul, useless, maligning and destructive human forces” as well as more rigorous opinions from historians and Canadian writers, she said.

Morrison said the magazine cribbed the idea from BBC History Magazine, whose readers chose serial killer Jack the Ripper as the worst Briton in history in a 2005 poll.


### Marne Weather Watch

Wednesday, May 9



**Partly Cloudy**  
Low: 75F/High: 106F

Thursday, May 10



**Partly Cloudy**  
Low: 77F/High: 102F

## Sudoku

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

from Green Belt Sudoku, by Frank Longo

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

### ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Open the door *iftah al bab*