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Brigade, 1st National Police Division headquarters in Tameem Jan. 3.

Key leaders band against insurgents

SGT. NATALIE ROSTEK 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

FOB HAMMER — Leaders of the Iraqi Security Forces, Iraqi government, tribal sheiks and the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team met Jan. 3 in Al Ja'ara to coordinate efforts to defeat insurgents.

Col. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., from Prince George's County, Md., commander of the 3rd HBCT, said the meeting sends an important message.

"There were key leaders from four major organizations, Coalition Forces, ISF, the Iraqi government and the citizens, all talking about killing or capturing insurgents," Grigsby said.

The group met at the 3rd Brigade,

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Sheik meeting leads to information on al-Qaeda in Iraq

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

FOB KALSU — In a vital and encouraging boost to the efforts against al-Qaeda in Iraq, local sheiks met with Coalition Forces to discuss cooperation and future Concerned Local Citizen programs Jan. 4.

Sheiks from areas surrounding Sayafia spoke with commanders Col. Terry Ferrell, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and Col. Dan Ball, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Inf. Div., Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. During the event, sheiks introduced themselves to Ferrell and Ball, relaying to both leaders some of the crimes and injustices that al-Qaeda had perpetrated.

In one instance, an Iraqi man described being forced from his home and land by al-Qaeda who now use his property as a safehouse.

Ultimately, he pleaded with both leaders to help him get his property back, to which Ferrell replied, "That's what I'm here to do."

Ferrell went on to tell the sheiks that he hoped they

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Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Col. James W. Adams, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. deputy commander, listens to a sheik's concerns at a Jan. 4 meeting as Staff Sgt. Shawn Wenninger takes notes.

Sgt. Natalie Rostek Col. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. shakes hands with Lt. Gen. Abud at the 3rd



Photos by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky The crowd erupts in applause after the Steve Kably, a civilian contractor, sang "Smack That" by Akon and Eminem at the FOB Kalsu talent show Jan. 1. At right, Master Sgt. Q.P. Bean, serenades his audience at the show.



Talent show highlights Kalsu's brightest

SGT. KEVIN STABINSKY 2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — Soldiers on Forward Operating Base Kalsu got to display their talents New Year's Day at a Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored talent show.

The event, which drew 15 contestants, was held in the dining facility in front of a crowd of more than 100 people, all cheering on their favorite acts.

The contestants, urged on by their supporters, put their best foot forward in an attempt to claim the top prize: a four-gigabyte iPod Nano.

Second and third places received a Nikon Coolpix L10 digital camera and a multimedia speaker system respectively. All contestants received a 100minute AT&T calling card.

At the end of the show, after the contest's three judges tallied their scores, Master Sgt. Q.P. Bean, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division communications section, walked away with the prize.

The judges were Sgt. 1st Class Mildred Hill, 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div., personnel office noncommissioned officer in charge, 2nd Lt. Herena Mitchum, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., and Matt Abbott, a Kellogg Brown and Root logistics supervisor.

Bean, who has been singing for 30 years, said he did not enter the contest just seeking a prize. Instead, the Ozark, Ala., native said his motivation came from his love of singing.

"I don't sing to compete. I just do it because I enjoy it," Bean said.

Bean's relaxed attitude helped fend off any stage fright, as did his prior experience singing in the U.S. Army Soldier Show in 2002. It was during that show that Bean learned the importance of interacting with the crowd. He said a big part of entertaining troops is making a connection with the audience.

As part of his act, singing "Always and Forever" by Luther Vandross, Bean got the attention of several front-row females, causing them and the crowd to react with roaring applause.

Gaining crowd support was also a tactic of third place winners, Sgts. Christopher Walker, from Monroe, La., and Darnell Raby, from Portsmouth, Va., both Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

The duo, who are roommates, rapped "Walk Like a Model." Walker and Raby said they wanted to come up with a good concept that would turn heads.

The enjoyment the crowd garnered from the performance was an assurance that more shows would be put on in the future, said 1st Lt. Andrew Shadley, FOB Kalsu MWR officer.

"I'm glad everyone enjoyed it," Shadley said. "The amount of talent is outstanding."

THE Dog Face Daily

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LEADERS: Heads of Iraq govt., security forces, tribes meet in Al Ja'ara

From Page 1

1st National Police Division headquarters in Tameem, southeast of Baghdad. From there, they traveled to Al Ja'ara where they sat down with tribal leaders from the Mada'in Qada to discuss security and economic issues within the district.

After Lt. Gen. Abud, the Baghdad Operations Center commander, and Sheik Nouri Zabar Khamiss, head tribal leader of the Mada'in Qada, spoke briefly on Iraq's history regarding violence and sacrifice, the floor was open to concerns and questions.

"I promise to take your issues into consideration," Abud said through a translator. "I want make the Mada'in Qada more secure for all Iraqis. I want peace and prosperity for all of Iraq."

According to Grigsby, insurgents are counting on the Iraqi people not sup-

porting the government, therefore allowing them to hide among the local populace.

"The Iraqi media and the western media were present so we were talking to Iraqi people, American people and the insurgents," Grigsby said. "The insurgents don't have a chance."

Ğrigsby said momentum has been gained in the 10 months since the 3rd HBCT deployed to the Mada'in Qada.

"Extremists can no longer hide," he said. "They see we are working together. The Concerned Local Citizens are the populace and they are working with the ISF. They have taken the security of the Mada'in Qada to the next level.

"The game plan is falling right in order," Grigsby said. "Violence has gone down so that we can focus more on economics and government. As a commander, I am very proud of the way things are going."



Sgt. Natalie Rostek Col. Emad Abd Ali discusses future plans for the Mada'in Qada with Col. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. Jan. 3.

MEETING: Sheiks exchange info, ideas for future at Kalsu From Page 1

were serious about their commitment to the area.

The sheiks shared information with Ferrell regarding the whereabouts and strength of al-Qaeda forces.

Ferrell emphasized to the community leaders the most important thing they could do was to give him information on al-Qaeda forces.

Additionally, he emphasized the importance of not having the sheiks arm their respective communities and rove around looking for insurgents.

Ferrell said that militias are illegal in Iraq and the CLCs need to focus their efforts on providing information on terrorist activities in and around their homes and villages.

Safety Thought of the Day FMTV Cab Operations Safety

• Ensure that all chock blocks are in place when vehicles are parked or maintenance is to be performed.

Never raise the cab while occupied.Remove all loose objects from the cab

before raising it.Ensure both doors are

securely closed before the cab is raised.

If cab has a machine

gun ring mount, ensure turret is locked before raising it.

Do not allow personnel near cab while the cab is being raised or lowered.
Never raise the cab when the vehicle is parked on a steep hill.
Failure to comply with these procedures may result in injury or damage to equipment.



Headline Highlights

Octogenarian street-racer; barrier-free jails

Street-racing law nabs 85-year-old

TORONTO (Reuters) — A new law meant to help crack down on young Canadian street racers in their souped up cars has nabbed an octogenarian in his Oldsmobile.

The 85-year-old man is one of 2,300 drivers across Ontario to be charged under new legislation, designed to combat "street racing, stunts and contests", since it came into effect three months ago — and he's the oldest.

The man was pulled over after allegedly driving 161 kilometers per hour (100 mph) this week on a main highway north of Toronto, where the speed limit is 100 km/h, Ontario Provincial Police said.

"It really doesn't matter the age of the person or whether they're trying to race another car," OPP Sgt. Cam Woolley said on Friday. "The consequences of the crashes and the laws of physics are always in effect."

Under the legislation, a person is charged if they are driving 50 km/h more than the posted speed limit.

"Street racing was probably a bad title for it, extreme driving probably would have been better," Woolley said.

Under the legislation, the 85-yearold could face a minimum C\$2,000 (\$2,000) fine. His license has been suspended and his car impounded for a week. Woolley said that, in the case of the 85-year-old, a police officer driving in a marked car saw the Oldsmobile and tried to get the driver's attention, honking her horn and waving.

"He flew past her," said Woolley,

adding he was going about 140 km/h at the time — and then sped up.

When he finally stopped, the man told the officer he was going to the bank and planned to go shopping, Woolley said.

Until this week, two 75-year-old men were the oldest to be charged under the law. The youngest is a 16-year-old woman. Most are men in their 20s.

Japan's elderly inmates to get barrier-free jails

TOKYO (Reuters) — Faced with a prison population aging as rapidly as the rest of the country, Japan is to build new jails with disabled access, including elevators, slopes for wheelchairs and grab-bars in toilets and baths.

The three new penal facilities will offer healthy meals and may also have specialists in nursing and rehabilitation on staff, a Justice Ministry official said on Friday.

The number of prison inmates over age 60 rose to 8,700 in 2006 from 3,500 in 1997. Those with disabilities are currently spread around the country, making it difficult for wardens to deal with them, the ministry said.

The three new penal facilities will each accommodate about 360 people and total building costs are estimated at 8.3 billion yen. The ministry hopes to have them up and running by the end of the year. Though the new prisons are being referred to as barrier-free, they will maintain the usual restrictions.

"Of course barrier-free does not mean prisoners will be able to go outside," said an official at the Justice Ministry. "We just want to help inmates with disabilities to move around like the able-bodied."

The greying of the prison population reflects a more general trend. In 2005, 20 percent of Japan's population was aged 65 years or above and the percentage is expected to rise rapidly.

A National Police Agency report in 2006 showed that people aged 65 and over accounted for more than 10 percent of those arrested or taken into custody for crimes other than traffic violations in 2005, compared with 2.2 percent in 1990.

Missing Russians rescued

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russian rescuers on Friday saved 11 people stranded for nearly three months in a remote area of the Pacific coast after a fishing trip went wrong, local media reported.

The group had survived by eating flour they scavenged from a deserted military base, hunting for game and burning furniture for fuel and heating, the Vesti-24 television station reported.

Their two boats were damaged in a storm Oct. 10 during a fishing expedition off the Kamchatka Peninsula.

One vessel was lost and they were unable to repair the second, forcing the group, which included three women, to remain in their makeshift shelter with no way of calling for help.

When their food supplies started to run low, they sent five of their party to seek help. After walking for four days, the five found a military unit which then sent for help.

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