

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Signing on to security



Capt James Browning

Local citizens fill out applications at an Iraqi Police recruiting drive held at the Al Samud Iraqi Police Station in Babil Province Jan. 12. The event was administered by local IPs together with Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment. More than 100 local citizens applied to become IPs.

Shia pilgrims gather safely to celebrate Ashura

RENANAH MILES
MND-C PAO

BAGHDAD — On Jan. 19, tens of thousands of religious pilgrims who have converged on Karbala over the last ten days will celebrate Ashura, one of Shia Islam's holiest days.

This year they will be protected by

the Iraqi Security Forces, with thousands of Police, Army and National Police stationed along pilgrimage routes and in the Shia holy city.

This is the first time Iraqi forces will be in complete control of security for the event.

U.S. troops are maintaining only an overwatch role along the pilgrimage

routes, assisting the Iraqis with support and advice on security measures.

"Coalition Forces are shoring up the Iraqi Security Forces with combat enablers, through aero-reconnaissance, intelligence gathering and route clearance teams," said Maj. Todd Kelly,

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Education a priority for 3rd CAB Soldiers

PFC. MONICA K. SMITH
3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP STRIKER — During deployment, Soldiers can lose the discipline to do things they need to do, putting it off or on hold. However, Soldiers in 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment have found the discipline and resources to make education and career advancement a priority.

“The (general technical) improvement courses give the Soldiers the opportunity to better their GT score and many of them can then advance on in their career,” said 2nd Lt. Robert Boles, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4-3rd Avn. Regt. “Some of them want to (apply to Officer Candidacy School and Warrant Officer School) and others want to re-class and need a GT score of 110 to go to certain (military occupation specialties). Some of them also have math college classes and this helps them to freshen up.”

The hour and a half-long course began Jan 7. and runs Monday through Thursday for three weeks.

The course covers math and English with the math portion taught by Boles. He focuses on material typically learned in an Algebra I or Algebra II class and applies it to daily life.

Spc. Adela Rushing, HHC, 4-3rd Avn. Regt., teaches the English portion, focusing on vocabulary and paragraph comprehension.

“My first sergeant approached me because it is widely known my major was secondary education with an em-



Photos by Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Top: 2nd Lt. Robert Boles reviews math homework with Soldiers at Camp Striker. At right, Spc. Adela Rushing (left), helps Spc. Mylene Graulau and Spc. Marc Couepel, all with HHC, 4-3 Avn. Regt., as they work on their English assignment Jan. 17 at Camp Striker.

phasis in English,” Rushing said. “I wasn’t sure about teaching at first but I think it’s really good that Soldiers take initiative to better themselves and I couldn’t resist that.”

Sgt. Salvador Saucedo, Company E, 4-3rd Avn. Regt., hopes this course will help him progress in his military career by improving his English.

“It’s good learning this new vocabulary,” Saucedo said. “I’m trying to learn as much as I can so I can be ready for the test. I want to raise my GT score so I

can advance my military career.”

Boles said the course would not exist without good leadership.

“We are very fortunate that we have leaders who actively engage the Soldiers so they can benefit,” he said.

Rushing agreed with the benefits the course provides for Soldiers.

“Having an opportunity to work on education is important,” she said. “Even though we’re deployed over here 15 months, improving the GT opens up more opportunities for the Soldiers.”

THE Dog Face Daily

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ASHURA: Thanks to ISF, Shia pilgrims observe holiday peacefully

From Page 1

ISF chief for Multi-National Division – Center.

Almost 20,000 ISF are present in Karbala, implementing a security plan that includes a vehicle ban throughout MND-C's area of operations, with the exception of Wasit province.

So far the pilgrimage has remained free of violence near Karbala. The peaceful celebration of another major religious holiday in the city would be significant for the region's economy and future security outlook.

Kelly referenced clashes between rival militias in Karbala last August, and said the Iraqis have learned from previous shortcomings in security. "They were able to improve upon performance in security, ensuring that no catastrophic events have occurred (to date)," Kelly said.

Karbala is one of the Iraqi provinces in MND-C that has already transferred to provincial Iraqi control.

This means the ISF has the lead on providing security there, under the direct control of the Iraqi government.

Coalition presence is limited to governance support, economic development projects and security oversight.

Additionally, Iraqi and Coalition of-

ficials are hoping to build on Karbala's status as a pilgrimage destination to transform the area into a major cultural and economic hub for Iraq, attracting Muslim tourists from all over the world to the city's shrines.

Ashura is the latest Muslim holiday to be celebrated in relative peace in the city, after an August 2007 shooting incident marred the celebration of the

The ISF has the lead on providing security in Karbala, under the direct control of the Iraqi government.

birth of the 12th Shia imam.

That incident led to condemnations of militia violence by Iraqis across the board. Celebrations in the city since that point have been peaceful.

The holiday is still marked by suffering. Shias commemorating the death of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Mohammed, mark the occasion with massive public mourning demonstrations and "passion plays" which re-enact his martyrdom.

Many men and even boys participate in self-flagellation, whipping themselves on the back and head with chains and blades till their blood flows freely.

The pilgrimage to Karbala in 2004 was noted worldwide as the first since Saddam Hussein rose to power in Iraq.

The festival had been banned under his rule and resumed only following the U.S. invasion in 2003.

While the ability of Shia Muslims to publicly celebrate their holiday is a mark of freedom, it has been marred yearly by devastating attacks launched by extremists preying on vulnerable crowds.

In 2004, suicide bombs killed about 180 people in Karbala and the Kadhimiyah Shrine in Baghdad.

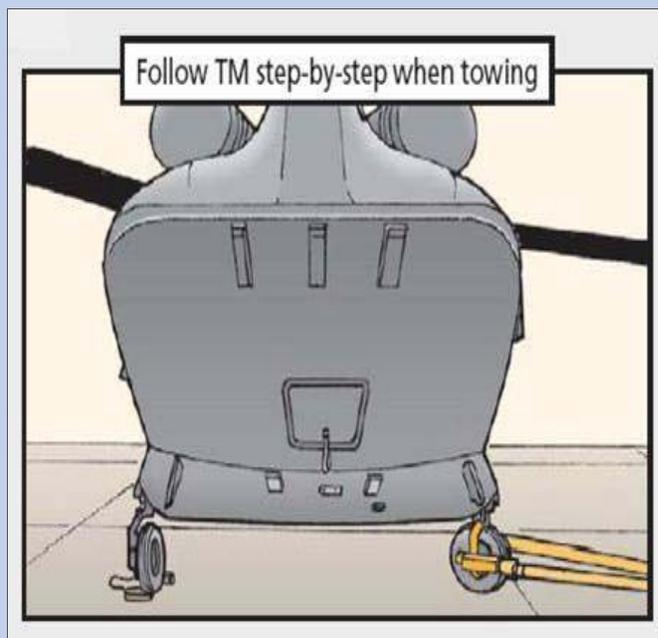
While all Muslims acknowledge Ashura as a holy day, originally designated by the Prophet Mohammed as a day of fasting, it has historic significance as representing the schism between Shia and Sunni Islam.

For Shias, Ashura is a day of mourning the martyrdom of Hussein, who led a small group of followers into a defiant stand against the ruling Sunni Caliph Yazid in 680 AD.

Yazid's army defeated the small group, leading to a permanent split in sects.

Safety Thought of the Day Proper Towing of a Chinook

- Prior to towing, the left aft wheel must be rotated • 120 degrees from the trailing position so that the brake and brake disc are facing outboard.
- The aft right wheel stays in the trailing position (with the brake and brake disc facing inboard) and the tow bar attached to it.
- You should never tow the aircraft with the tow bar attached to the aft left landing gear.
- All towing (normal or alternate) must be done with the swivel locks disengaged.
- Have helper sit in cockpit. Helper will apply brakes if needed during towing.
- Remember the caution to wait at least 20 minutes after shutting down or removing electrical power before moving helicopter. Otherwise, vertical gyros can be damaged.
- Have station observers (wing walkers) walk on each side of aircraft to make sure blades have clearance during towing.
- The bottom line when towing any aircraft, follow the TM step-by-step.



Headline Highlights

Mistaken identification; canine communication

Shoplifting suspect dead?

VILNIUS (Reuters) — Police in the Lithuanian city of Klaipeda were baffled to discover that a woman arrested for shoplifting last weekend had been registered as dead a month earlier.

The woman's parents had mistakenly identified a body found in a forest as that of their 27-year-old daughter, Natalya Pavlova, who disappeared from home in November, police said on Wednesday.

It emerged that Pavlova was alive and well and living with her boyfriend in the same town.

"Her parents identified the corpse as their daughter. What could we do?" Petras Mikalauskis, a deputy police chief for the area, told Reuters.

"It was the first such case in my experience."

The real identity of the dead woman was not known. The police have launched an investigation.

Computer can help your dog communicate

BUDAPEST (Reuters) — Hungarian scientists are working on computer software analyzing dog barks that could allow people to better recognize dogs' basic emotions, Hungarian ethologist Csaba Molnar said.

Molnar and his colleagues at Budapest's ELTE University have tested software which distinguishes the emotional reaction of 14 dogs of the Hungarian Mudi herding breed to six situations:

When the dog is alone, when it sees a ball, it fights, it plays, it encounters a stranger or it goes for a walk.

"A possible commercial application could be a device for dog-human communication," the scientist told Reuters.

The computer correctly recognized the emotional reaction of the dogs based on their barks and yelps in 43 percent of the cases. People had judged correctly in 40 percent of cases.

Scientists said the software could be improved.

Molnar said the Hungarian scientists' research provided further proof that different types of dog barks convey messages humans can understand even if they had no experience with dogs.

Spain ditches divisive national anthem lyrics

MADRID (Reuters) — Proposed new lyrics for Spain's national anthem have stirred national divisions rather than pride and have been scrapped, the Spanish Olympic Committee said Wednesday.

Spain's "Royal March" national anthem has been played without words since 1978, when lyrics approved by right-wing dictator Francisco Franco were ditched.

With the Beijing games approaching, Spain's Olympic committee held a competition to find new words for the anthem rather than see its athletes hum along or chant "la, la, la," as has long been the case.

Spanish opera star Placido Domingo

was to be the first to sing it.

But the winning version was leaked and met derision in the Spanish media and among members of parliament responsible for approving the lyrics.

The anthem's opening words, "Long live Spain!" had an authoritarian ring to them and one prominent left-wing leader said they "stank" of the Franco era.

The nationalistic tone did not appeal to separatists in the Basque Country and Catalonia.

Not even the political right showed much enthusiasm for the words written by an unemployed 52-year-old, Paulino Cubero, who said he wanted lyrics that would appeal to ordinary Spaniards.

"The words needed to unite and have a general consensus. But we have seen the controversy they have caused and have decided to withdraw them," Spanish Olympic Committee Chairman Alejandro Blanco told a news conference.

"We are continuing with the idea that the hymn will have words and that Placido Domingo will sing them at the presentation."

Domingo said he backed the decision.

"If these words aren't generally acceptable, we have marvelous writers that will be able to come up with something. But I don't want to go with something that causes controversy," he said.

The Olympic committee will next meet Jan. 22 to see if it is possible to find national anthem lyrics that get all Spaniards singing off the same song sheet.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

What did you see?

shih-noo shif-it?