

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

MEDEVAC crews brave enemy to save Soldiers

SGT. 1ST CLASS THOMAS MILLS
3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP STRIKER — Aero-medical evacuation crews from Task Force Marne faced down enemy gunfire to deliver five injured Soldiers to safety Jan. 18.

The MEDEVAC crews from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, were called in when a patrol of Strykers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division was attacked.

The Black Hawk helicopters flew to the site only to find that the easiest place to land, the road the Stryker vehicles were on, had not been cleared of possible improvised explosive devices. The MEDEVAC crews were unable to contact the ground forces, or an Apache team from 12th Combat Aviation Brigade in the area.

After circling, scouting for a place to land, the crews landed in a field adjacent to the road, said Capt. Samuel Fricks, operations officer for Company C. Fricks was a pilot in the second of the two MEDEVAC aircraft.

"After landing my medic, Staff Sgt. (Robert) Congdon, departed the aircraft and linked up with ... Staff Sgt. (Aughe) McQuown," Fricks said. The two medics went to the site of the attack and soon returned to the helicopters with three injured Soldiers.

As they returned to the Stryker for the remaining two injured Soldiers, Congdon said, they began taking fire.

"I just grabbed the patient and grabbed McQuown and we went into the Stryker," Congdon said.

Bullets struck the Stryker and around them as they went for the cover of the armored vehicle. Congdon reset the Stryker's radio to the MEDEVAC frequency, then took off his flight helmet and put on a Stryker crewmember's helmet so he could talk to the aircraft.

When the call came over the radio



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Victoria Wade

The second aircraft of the 2-3 Avn. Regt., 3rd CAB MEDEVAC flight sits in a field as seen through the windshield of the first aircraft during a mission to rescue Soldiers injured in an attack Jan. 18.

that his medics were taking fire, Fricks was not sure what to think.

He did not know where the fire was coming from, but he figured that since the helicopters were down below the level of the road in the field he was not in much danger.

"The only thing we knew was that Staff Sgt. Congdon was taking fire," Fricks said.

As they waited for the two medics to come back with the remaining patients a third medic, Sgt. Donald Dedmon, in training as a flight medic, ran back and forth between the two aircraft to treat the injured Soldiers already on board.

Fricks had been linked up via radio to the circling Apaches and he relayed Congdon's directions to bring in 30 mm machine cannon fire to suppress the enemy shooter.

Back at the Stryker, Congdon and McQuown were attempting to get back to the aircraft with their patients.

"We lowered the ramp (of the Stryker) to get out and be able to get to the

aircraft and (the sniper) started shooting," Congdon said.

McQuown, a native of Florida, picked up one patient while Congdon and an infantry Soldier helped the other patient and they broke for it.

"It was a combination of, they ran out of litters and the guy was shooting at us," Congdon said. "The longer we wait on the ground the worse it is on the patient, so at some point we had to just leave and get the patients to the hospital."

The medics loaded the remaining two patients on the MEDEVAC birds. After a quick count of heads to make sure no one was left behind, they departed while the Apaches continued to lay down suppressing fire.

"The five patients we hauled all survived," Fricks said.

He said watching the two medics struggling to bring their patients to safety was almost like something you'd see in a Hollywood production. "I just thought it was awesome."



Photos by Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Third Day, the first Christian band to perform in Iraq, sings "Rockstar" during their Camp Liberty show Jan. 19.

Christian band Third Day visits Liberty

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

CAMP STRIKER — The first Christian band to visit troops in Iraq performed its third show Jan. 19 at the Camp Liberty gymnasium in Baghdad.

Third Day, a three-time Grammy-award winning Christian band, visited the Victory Base Complex for a meet and greet at Al Faw Palace and a luncheon before the evening's concert.

Spc. Mike Malinowsky, Company C, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, arrived with others from the Combat Aviation Brigade, more than

an hour early to wait for the concert to begin.

"I came to have a good worship experience and to have some time away from work," Malinowsky said. "I think this is a good morale booster and it's not very often that a Christian artist comes to Iraq."

In fact, getting the Atlanta-based band to tour in Iraq was an event three years in the making, said Chap. (Col.) Mike Tarvin, Multi-National Corps – Iraq senior chaplain.

"Other Christian artists have come under the head-



Members of a chapel band performs Third Day's "You Are So Good To Me" during the concert Jan. 19.

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THE Dog Face Daily

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Managing Editor — Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Editor/Design — Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

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BAND: *First Christian band to visit Iraq performs at Camp Liberty gym*

From Page 2

line of 'encouraging speaker', but this is the first Christian attraction of this size in Iraq," Tarvin said.

Mac Powell, the lead singer of Third Day, said when the band was asked to tour in Iraq there was no question as to whether they would go.

"It's an honor to be here," Powell said. "We wanted to come out here and see you guys and for us, this is some-

thing we won't forget."

Doors opened just prior to 8 p.m. and before long the small gymnasium was full. Event planners organized seats for 300 attendees; however, more chairs and makeshift benches were set up as Soldiers stood in the aisles and along the walls to listen to the concert. At one point Powell invited a chapel band to perform one of Third Day's songs.

Powell says he was impressed with the variety of tasks Soldiers perform

and how well they worked together in accomplishing a goal.

"You think you know what's going on and then you come out here and see there are so many people behind the scenes," Powell said. "The Scripture says everybody is a different piece of the body and all those pieces come together to make the body work. You serve people you don't know. Your sacrifice is amazing. We are praying for you and for your families."

Talking politics



Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles

Col. Peter Baker, 214th Fires Brigade commander, and the 214th FB Provincial Reconstruction Team met with Wasit tribal sheiks to discuss political integration of the tribes into the Provincial Council Jan. 18 at Forward Operating Base Delta. The sheiks expressed an interest in working more closely with Coalition Forces and taking a more active role providing security in Al Kut and Wasit Province.

Safety Thought of the Day Vehicle Trailer Safety

- Do not stand between trailer drawbar and truck coupler during hook-up procedures to prevent being pinned between truck and trailer.
- Ensure feet and hands are clear when connecting or disconnecting trailers.
- Wear gloves and ensure all safety precautions are followed.
- Towing trailers too large or too small for the vehicle capacity may cause the trailers

to not track the tow vehicle properly; cargo to shift; or the trailer to capsize during movement.

- When towing a trailer, keep the overall length of the unit in mind when passing other vehicles and turning.
- Slow down for curves, wet or rough roads, or downgrades.
- Anticipate all stops to take longer as a result of the added weight. Brake early and

Headline Highlights

Russian rocket compensation; snakes on plane

Russian army offers to pay as stray rocket hits house

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia’s military Thursday offered compensation to a homeowner after a small rocket veered off course and hit his country house outside Moscow.

Russian Internet chatrooms were buzzing late Wednesday after local news agencies reported that “an unidentified flying object dropped two bombs near Moscow.”

A defense ministry official told Reuters two rockets had gone astray during a military exercise near Moscow Wednesday afternoon. One hit the roof of an unoccupied house 3.5 km (2.2 miles) away.

“The damage is estimated at 60,000 rubles (\$2,466). It will be compensated for in two days,” said Yevgeny Konashenkov, spokesman for Russian land troops.

“The owner of the house treats the incident with understanding. He has no legal claims.”

Luckily for the nearby compound of cottage houses, the rockets disconnected at launch from the load of explosives they normally carry to clear minefields.

More snakes on a plane

HANOI (Reuters) — Vietnam has seized more than a ton of ratsnakes found aboard a Vietnam Airlines flight from Bangkok, the second time in about a month such snakes were found in air

cargo to Vietnam, state media said on Friday.

The snakes — scientific name *Ptyas Mucosus* and a protected species -- were found in more than 60 boxes that arrived in Hanoi’s Noi Bai airport on Thursday, the Vietnam News Agency quoted officials as saying.

“There is a great possibility that Vietnam is only a transit point of the cargo,” it said, adding that the snakes were transferred to an animal caring station nearby.

Last month, the airport authorities also seized 1,550 pounds of snakes aboard a Thai Airways flight to Hanoi, it said.

Customers desert smoke-free restaurant

BEIJING (Reuters) — Beijing’s first smoke-free restaurant chain faces going out of business after its customers deserted it in droves after the ban was enforced, state media reported on Friday.

The Chinese are the world’s most enthusiastic smokers, with a growing market of more than 350 million, making it a magnet for cigarette companies and a focus of international health concerns.

The occupancy rate at Meizhou Dongpo, a chain serving the spicy fare of southwest Sichuan province, had dropped to “about 80 percent of that enjoyed by other restaurants across the street” after it banned smoking in October, the China Daily quoted its man-

ager as saying.

“We figure that if we’re going to die, at least we’re going to die honorably,” the paper quoted Guo Xiaodong, deputy director of the restaurant chain, as saying.

Meizhou Dongpo had trained its waitresses how to discourage people from lighting up, but met resistance from customers who would lock staff out of private dining rooms to sneak a quick puff, Guo said.

“It just illustrates how much resistance there is to kicking the habit among Chinese smokers,” the paper quoted Zhang Xuemei, a Beijing reporter who lobbied the restaurant to ban smoking, as saying.

Beijing, set to mark the 200-day countdown to the Olympics on Monday, has yet to issue clear rules on smoking bans, despite Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao promising a “smoke-free Olympics.”

Along with spitting, and not queuing, Olympic organizers fear Chinese people’s tendency to smoke anywhere at any time could taint the country’s image in foreign eyes.

China banned smoking in taxis in October and launched a drive to ban smoking in hospitals, schools, and government offices last year.

But resistance to the campaign has been fierce.

Beijing authorities had written to 30,000 restaurants asking them to put smoking bans in place, but not a single one had taken up the suggestion, the paper said.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday’s puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Did you see a vehicle?

shifit il say-yah-reh?