Serving Task Force Marne **–** 

# 'Iron Boston' targets al-Qaeda hideout



Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback

Soldiers from Co. C, 3-187th Inf. Regt. clear a courtyard in the Sa'id Abdullah Corridor during Operation Iron Boston Jan. 27.

STAFF SGT. TONY M. LINDBACK 3RD BCT, 101st ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

PB YUSIFIYAH - Iraqi Army and Soldiers from Companies C and D, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), air assaulted into the Sa'id Abdullah Corridor Jan. 27 as part of Operation Iron Boston.

Operation Iron Boston was a daytime air assault. Keeping the enemy guessing is exactly what Pittsburgh native Capt. Michael Starz, commander of Company C, wanted to do.

"Every air assault we do is different," Starz said. "There's not a single time that we do a big operation that it looks the same to the enemy. We never want to be predictable."

The Iraqi Army detained 24 in the course of the operation. Five of the men were detained after Iraqi Soldiers discovered them hiding in a spider hole.

Starz described the hole as being well constructed, deep and big enough

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### National Police graduation ceremony hosts 3-1 Cav. leaders

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

FOB HAMMER — Soldiers and leaders of the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment attended a National Police Team Leaders Course graduation ceremony Jan. 26 in Tameem.

Policemen from the 3rd Brigade, 1st National Police Division attended a week-long course where they learned basic policing skills such as first aid, casualty stabilization, room clearing, and AK-47 rifle marksmanship.

'Graduates from this course are taught the basic skills necessary not only to lead National Policemen during the execution of security operations,

but also to teach others," said Lt. Col. John Kolasheski, from Loudon, Tenn.. 3-1st Cav. Regt. commander.

"Team leaders will reinforce those skills through joint missions with Coalition Forces as the primary responsibility of local security transitions from Coalition Forces to Iraqi Security Forc-

Members of the 3-1 Cav. Regiment's National Police Training Team led the course and provided the curriculum and training to the policemen.

According to Capt. DaMond Davis, from Montgomery, Ala., 3-1 Cav. Regiment's fire support officer, the course was modeled after the U.S. Army's Warriors Leaders Course, a two-week long course attended by specialists and iunior NCOs.

The National Police Team Leader Course lavs the foundation for basic Soldier skills that are sustained through training and execution," he said. "This course builds on the confidence and competence in junior NP leaders which not only leads to more effective operations in the field but builds ISF capacity."

Davis explained the National Police are seen by local citizens in the area as "Iraq's police force" and are viewed in high regards. He said the National Police have worked with local leaders to provide security for government-run projects.

## Today in Marne history ...

January 30, 1944

Sgt. Truman O. Olson, Company B, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on this date near near Cisterna di Littoria, Italy.

Olson, a light machine gunner, elected to sacrifice his life to save his company from annihilation.

On the night of Jan. 30, 1944, after a 16-hour assault on entrenched enemy positions in the course of which over one-third of Company B became casualties, the survivors dug in behind a horseshoe elevation, placing Olson and his crew, with the one available machine gun, forward of their lines and in an exposed position to bear the

brunt of the expected German counterattack.

Although he had been fighting without respite, Olson stuck grimly to his post all night while his guncrew was cut down, one by one, by accurate and overwhelming enemy fire.

Weary from more than 24 hours of continuous battle and suffering from an arm wound, received during the night engagement, Olson manned his gun alone, meeting the full force of an all-out enemy assault by approximately 200 men supported by mortar and machinegun fire which the Germans launched at daybreak on the morning of Jan. 31. After 30 minutes of fighting, Olson was mor-



tally wounded, yet, knowing that only his weapons stood between his company and complete destruction, he refused evacuation.

For an hour and a half after receiving his second

and fatal wound he continued to fire his machinegun, killing at least 20 of the enemy, wounding many more, and forcing the assaulting German elements to withdraw.

## Camp Victory Soldiers:

Would you like to record a Valentine's Day or Superbowl shout-out?

Day: TODAY ONLY!

Time: 10 a.m. to noon and 3-5 p.m.

Place: Outside the Media Operations Center,

in front of TF Marne Headquarters

Look for the camera and tripod!

### THE

### **Dog Face Daily**

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720th Military Police Battalion

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### BOSTON: Rakkasan daytime air assault targets al-Qaeda safe haven



Photos by Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback Cpl. Joseph Konieczny, Co. C, 3-187th Inf. Regt., provides security while occupants of a home are escorted outside before their house is cleared in the Sa'id Abdullah Corridor during Operation Iron Boston Jan. 27. At right, a Kiowa helicopter runs a terrain denial fire mission and provides close-air support for Rakkasan Soldiers from Co. C and D, 3-187th Inf. Regt., and Iraqi soldiers on the ground.



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to fit 10 men.

Kiowa helicopters provided close-air support to ensure the area was safe for U.S. and Iraqi troops. While ground forces moved in and out of houses, the Kiowas made low-level passes and fired rockets to deter any would-be attackers.

Insurgent activity has been prominent in the corridor.

"The Sa'id Abdullah Corridor is where all the al-Qaeda groups in this region were controlled from," Starz said. "It's where their leadership was present, where their logistics occurred — basically they controlled the movement of foreign fighters into the area from this location."

Historically, the Sa'id Abdulla Corridor has been the borderline between operating environments for Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces.

Being on the border may have led insurgents to believe they could avoid detection.

Starz said his unit communicates closely with 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT), the neighboring battalion to 3-187th Inf. Regt. "Between all the Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces operating in the area, it's no longer a safe haven for them."

### Safety Thought of the Day Knife Safety

- The basic principle in knife safety is: Be in control.
- Never cut toward any part of your body.
- Always cover or store away the blade when the knife is not used.
- DO NOT use a locking folding knife if the blade does not lock open.
- Keep your blade sharp. A dull blade must be forced to do its work and makes the tool hard to control.
- Never play with knives.
- Finally, and perhaps most overlooked: always use the right tool for the job!



File photos

### **Headline Highlights**

## Hidden castle; police puppy; bra price equality

## Farmer hides castle from building inspectors

LONDON (Reuters) — A farmer built an entire mock castle behind a screen of hay bales and lived there concealed for four years to evade planning regulations, officials said on Friday — but it may be torn down anyway.

Robert Fidler hopes to take advantage of a provision of planning law that allows buildings without planning permission to be declared legal if no objections have been made after four years

But Reigate and Banstead Borough Council in Surrey is not impressed.

"It does not count because the property was hidden behind hay bales," said a spokeswoman. "No one knew it was there."

The council wants the building near Redhill some 30 km south of London to be demolished, along with an associated conservatory, marquee structure, wooden bridge, patio, decking and tarmac racecourse.

"It looks like a mock-Tudor house from the front and it's got two turrets at the back," the spokeswoman said. "I understand there is also a cannon."

The couple would have been unlikely to get planning permission as the farm was in "green belt" land where building was restricted, she said. A hearing takes place in February.

Fidler's wife Linda told the Daily Mail newspaper the children grew up looking at straw out of the windows of the house and that they kept their son away from playschool on the day his "It looks like a mock-Tudor house from the front and it's got two turrets at the back. I understand there is also a cannon."

 Reigate and Banstead Borough Council spokeswoman, on castle hidden behind hay bales

class were due to do paintings of their houses.

"We couldn't have him drawing a big blue haystack," she said. "People might ask questions."

Planning inspectors had been called to the site by concerned neighbours shortly before Fidler took the hay bales down in summer 2006 but had not seen the house.

"When the inspectors went there, all they saw was hay bales, and hay bales on agricultural land are not that unusual," the spokeswoman said.

"I think the neighbours thought there might be something going on but it is difficult to tell, isn't it?"

## Scotland police puppy makes online debut

LONDON (Reuters) — Police in Scotland have set up a Web site to allow the public to meet their newest,

and cutest, recruit as he learns how to sniff out criminals.

A six-week-old jet-black puppy with no name has been given his own online diary as he prepares to begin his new career with Tayside Police.

Officers said the puppy, one of a litter of seven, has attracted huge interest since he was unveiled as the force's latest crime-fighting weapon.

The dog's new handler, Constable Mike Keenan, said: "The benefits of using German Shepherds are that they are generally very loyal and hard working, as well as being intelligent."

Keenan's wife Jennifer has asked pupils from St. Ninian's Primary School in Dundee to come up with a name for the puppy. You can follow his progress online at: www.tayside.police.uk/dog\_section\_diary.php.

#### Women get bra price equality

LONDON (Reuters) — Forty years after feminists threatened to burn their bras, British women have won another battle in the fight for equality.

Asda, Britain's second-biggest food retailer and owned by U.S. giant Wal-Mart, says it will no longer charge women more for bigger bras in its George fashion range.

"We're putting an end once and for all to one of the last prejudices -- that of the bigger-busted woman," said brand director Fiona Lambert in a statement.

"From now on, all bras at George will be exactly the same price from A cup through to F cup."

S u d o k

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

### ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Tuesday

il tha-lah-tha