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Serving Task Force Marne



Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

A Son of Iraq finds a weapons cache consisting of an AK-47 and ammunition during Operation Browning Jan. 21 in southern Arab Jabour.

Spartans work with Sons of Iraq during Marne Thunderbolt

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

FOB KALSU — In efforts to secure their own neighborhoods, the Sons of Iraq are assisting Coalition Forces by removing threats posed by improvised explosive devices and weapons caches during Operation Marne Thunderbolt.

Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division have had the assistance of SoI for more than eight months; however, utilization of the groups expanded with the beginning of the operation.

Marne Thunderbolt took Soldiers into areas of southern Arab Jabour which had never before seen a sustained Coalition presence.

With the goal of establishing security in former al-Qaeda in Iraq strongholds, Coalition Forces asked for and received assistance from brave men who were tired of insurgents' violent influence.

At their own risk, Iraqi men all over 2nd BCT's area of operation assisted with security operations, which in addition to helping their own communi-

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Plant provides water to local community

SPC. AMANDA MCBRIDE
4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — Coalition Forces, local leaders and citizens attended the Hamiyah Water Treatment Plant grand opening Feb. 3 in Hamiyah, near Iskandariyah.

"Today, after much work, much effort and much coordination, we are opening up this plant to provide fresh, clean drinking water to the great citizens of Hamiyah," said Lt. Col. Timothy Newsome, commander of 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

An old plant routed water away from the neighboring area of Babahane into Hamiyah; the new plant, which took almost a year to complete, serves both.

"We built this new water treatment plant to facilitate both of the areas; Babahane and Hamiyah," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Johnson, Company C, 412th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Abbas Hussein Mauih, a local contractor, said the previous plant was so small it only provided water to about 100 households. The new plant will be able to provide water to nearly 10,000 people.

Ongoing inspections will ensure the plant stays up to standards.

"The Coalition (Forces) will continue throughout the year to check in on the water treatment plant to make sure it is operating and being maintained," Johnson said.

More projects are planned for Hamiyah and surrounding areas.

"They need water all over the area," Johnson said. "So there is still work to be done."

Medics help young Iraqi burn victim

SPC. BEN HUTTO
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — Medics from the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery treated a 10-year-old boy suffering from second- and third-degree burns at Combat Outpost Salie Feb. 1.

After the boy, Sudik Silam, was badly burned on his legs by water from a hot tea kettle, his father came to COP Salie's front gate and pleaded for help since the Narhwan medical facility was closed.

The medics took Sudik and his father to the aid-station and quickly removed the dead skin around the burns to promote faster healing. They applied medication to the burns and wrapped them with a gauze dressing.

"It was sad to know this child was burned by a hot chai tea kettle, however it made me feel good that I could use my medical skills to help him," said Spc. Gordon McTaggart, from Ottawa, Canada, a combat medic in 1-10 FA.

The medics gave the father ointments and gauze to change the dressings and were instructed to take Sudik



Spc. Ben Hutto

Capt. John Pena, 1-10 FA physician's assistant, treats a 10-year-old boy suffering from second- and third-degree burns at COP Salie Feb. 1.

to the Narhwan health clinic for a follow-up.

The father was so grateful that he offered the medics a goat as a token of gratitude. The medics were grateful for

the gesture, but declined the offer.

"It is nice to help ... and continue to build a good rapport with the local citizens in Narhwan," said Capt. John Pena, physician's assistant for 1-10 FA.



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302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

THUNDERBOLT: *SoI helping Spartan Brigade to secure Arab Jabour*

From Page 1

ties have also helped to save the lives of many American Soldiers.

Maj. James Wilburn, chief of operations with 2nd BCT, said one of the main reasons Sons of Iraq have been willing to work alongside Coalition Forces is they realize that rather than being an 'occupying' force, the Soldiers represent a way in which outlying areas can receive assistance from the government of Iraq.

"I think that we have been successful in getting the message out; we are interested in security, we are interested in conserving infrastructure and we are concerned about their (Iraqi citizens) well being," said Wilburn, a native of Las Cruces, N.M.

Areas in southern Baghdad provinces such as Sayafiyah, Adwaniyah, Zambraniyah and Bayjiya all saw the establishment of patrol bases and observation posts from where Soldiers conduct missions to eliminate AQI's ability to funnel weapons and personnel into Baghdad.

While much work remains to be done, the progress seen was made possible with the emergence of key community leaders.

Wilburn cited the example of the community of Sayafiyah as an example of a community whose leaders came forward and asked for assistance to root out insurgent forces and help establish ties with the GoI.

He said the coordination between 2nd BCT leaders and Sayafiyah leadership resulted in Coalition Forces receiving a warm welcome when they entered the town Jan 27.



Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Staff Sgt. Steve Stutzman, a squad leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., pulls security alongside a Son of Iraq during Operation Browning in Arab Jabour Jan. 20.

Col. James Adams, deputy commander of the 2nd BCT, said thus far during Marne Thunderbolt more than 400 IEDs have been turned in or found by SoI.

He said that in addition to saving Soldiers' lives by finding deadly IEDs, SoI are giving their communities peace of mind.

Once residents feel secure they get their lives back together and are able to open schools, shops, and return to a feeling of normalcy.

Adams said that because the SoI earn a monthly stipend they are able to boost local economies by flowing money into local shops and businesses.

One of the communities he high-

lighted as showing the greatest amount of progress in a short amount of time is Adwaniyah.

"We've seen that particular community come together faster than others and I credit most of that to leaders of the community," Adams said.

He said that the leaders of Adwaniyah were quick to engage local governmental authorities to receive assistance with utilities, and establish security checkpoints in coordination with other Iraqi Security Forces.

"Marne Thunderbolt could go on for some time, so long as we have troops on the ground working in and around these villages we can expect to see some form of local security," Wilburn said.

Safety Thought of the Day

General PMCS: Trailers

Before, During, and After operations of PMCS:

- Ensure the support leg is locked in place, (before and after).
- Ensure the crank handle is operational; to raise and lower trailer properly.
- Ensure the pins in the light connector (pig tail) are not bent or depressed.
- Ensure all light functions work on trailer when light connector is hooked to the vehicle.
 - When connector is not in use close the dust cap and place in holder bracket on trailer leg.
- Air hoses (service / emergency) are properly stored on trailer legs when not in use to avoid excess moisture and dust from entering the brake lines.

- Check tires for wear and proper inflation.
- Check wheel hubs over long duration of use to ensure they are not excessively hot.
- Drain trailer air tanks to avoid excess moisture build up.

Ensure trailers are chocked and manual brakes are set if equipped when not in use.

Ensure that rear support legs (if equipped) are in the down position when trailer is not hooked to its prime mover.

Ensure trailers are towed with the proper classification of vehicles.

For further information see the applicable manuals for the PMCS table.

Headline Highlights

Dutch gas-pumping robot; 'dead' fraud suspect

New robot pumps gas

EMMELOORD, Netherlands (Reuters) — Motorists nostalgic for the time they could sit tight while attendants braved windswept garage forecourts to fill their tanks may yet see those heady days return — compliments of a Dutch robot.

Dutch inventors unveiled Monday a 75,000 euro (\$111,100) car-fuelling robot they say is the first of its kind, working by registering the car on arrival at the filling station and matching it to a database of fuel cap designs and fuel types.

A robotic arm fitted with multiple sensors extends from a regular petrol pump, carefully opens the car's flap, unscrews the cap, picks up the fuel nozzle and directs it toward the tank opening, much as a human arm would, and as efficiently.

"I was on a farm and I saw a robotic arm milking a cow. If a robot can do that then why can't it fill a car tank, I thought," said developer and petrol station operator Nico van Staveren. "Drivers needn't get dirty hands or smell of petrol again."

He hopes to introduce the "Tankpit-stop" robot in a handful of Dutch stations by the end of the year. It works for any car whose tank can be opened without a key, and whose contours and dimensions have been recorded to avoid scratching.

Asked whether he would trust his car to a robotic garage attendant, Jelger De Kroon, filling his black Alfa Romeo at a nearby petrol station, said: "Why not? I guess I could keep my hands free and

clean, but I'd hope they have good insurance."

Sarkozy, Bruni win damages for Ryanair ad

PARIS (Reuters) — A French court ordered budget airline Ryanair Tuesday to pay damages to President Nicolas Sarkozy and his new wife Carla Bruni for using their picture in an advertisement but the sum was less than Bruni had sought.

The court ordered Ryanair to pay symbolic damages of one euro to Sarkozy and 60,000 euros (\$88,870) to his wife. Bruni, at one time one of the world's most highly paid fashion models, had been seeking damages of 500,000 euros.

Sarkozy and Bruni sued Ryanair over the advertisement for cut price tickets published in Le Parisien newspaper last week, featuring a photo of the smiling pair.

The advertisement showed a cartoon bubble above Bruni, the scion of an Italian industrial dynasty, reading: "With Ryanair, my whole family can come to my wedding."

The French president and the Italian-born model and singer were married in a small ceremony in the Elysee Palace at the weekend, setting the seal on a romance that has fascinated the world's press since it was revealed two months ago.

Ryanair had admitted the advertisement was facetious and offered to make a 5,000 euros donation to charity but its lawyers argued that as a high profile couple, Sarkozy and Bruni had to ac-

cept inconvenient attention.

The ruling comes a day after Ryanair warned that high oil prices and a weaker British economy could hurt its profits in the 2008/09 business year.

'Dead' man a fraud suspect

BUDAPEST (Reuters) — A Hungarian man who was reported dead by his wife in 2001 has been detained in the Czech Republic and is suspected of fraud, Hungarian police said.

In a case reminiscent of the British canoeist who "returned from the dead" five years after he went missing, the man's wife said he had drowned while windsurfing on holiday in Greece.

His body was never found and a Hungarian court declared him legally dead in 2003.

The man had taken out several life insurance policies in 2000, worth more than 200 million forints (\$1.15 million), and he also bought travel insurance before going to Greece, Hungarian police said in a statement.

Last year, the man was detained by Czech police who handed him over to Hungary. He told Hungarian police that after the "accident" he had swum to shore where a friend gave him clothes and forged documents.

He fled to Crete, Italy and finally to the Czech Republic.

His wife is being questioned by police as an accomplice. She is also suspected of polyandry after she remarried in 2005 even though she knew her husband was still alive, police said.

She had been unable to cash in the insurance policies, they added.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

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