

THE

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Serving Task Force Marne

3HBCT seizes large cache

MAJ. JOE SOWERS
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV. PAO

FOB HAMMER — Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, currently attached to the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, seized a large cache near Jisr Diyala, Feb. 6.

Soldiers from the 3-1 Cav. Regt. obtained a tip from an Iraqi and Soldiers from Company D moved to identify and secure the munitions.

“The removal of this cache is another step forward for the people of Jisr Diyala and the local government,” said Capt. Brian Gilbert, Boise, Idaho, the commander of Company D, 1-15 Inf. Regt.

The cache contained 35 82 mm mortars, 24 60 mm mortars, 14 grenades of various origin, four RPG-7 rockets, 14 warheads, and various other munitions and explosive material. Officers from 3-1 Cav. Regt. determined it was the largest cache the unit has seized since their deployment March 2007.

Gilbert explained civilians normally keep their distance when his Soldiers secure a cache site. When his Soldiers arrived at the supposed cache area, local residents helped point them in the right direction and engaged the Soldiers in conversation throughout the process.

He added that he has seen tremendous improvements in the area since returning from leave two weeks ago.

“While I was gone, the Sons of Iraq really spurred the people of Jisr Diyala to provide information on extremist groups and point us towards caches,” Gilbert said. “We seized more caches in January than all of October and November combined.”

While he has seen marked improvement, Gilbert feels there is more to be done.



Sgt. Natalie Rostek

Pvt. Ryan Testoni, from Warwick, R.I., Company A, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd HBCT, provides security Feb. 6 in al Bawi.

Sunrise missions lead to progress in al Bawi

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

COP CAHILL — Soldiers and leaders of Company A, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, visited Sons of Iraq at checkpoints Feb. 6 in al Bawi village.

According to Capt. William Clark, from Prairie Du Chien, Wis., commander of Company A, Soldiers had executed similar missions in the past and come under attack by small arms and improvised explosive devices. The past three visits to SoI check-

points in al Bawi were peaceful, he said.

Company A arrived in the al Bawi area, northwest of Salman Pak, April, 2007. During the first six weeks at COP Cahill Clark said unit Soldiers were patrolling the streets seven days a week. The Soldiers encountered their first IED strike during May 2007 and since then, IED strikes and indirect and small arms fire attacks were common.

“It was an AQI (al-Qaeda in Iraq)

See AL BAWI, Page 3



Capt. David Lively

Congressional delegates visit 3rd CAB, 2nd BCT

Above: Senators John Ensign of Nevada, Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and Jim Demint of South Carolina walk alongside Lt. Col. Mark Solomon, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division commander in Hawr Rajab Feb. 9 to see the progress made in the town. At right, Lt. Col. Greg Kanicki, 3rd CAB executive officer, escorts senators from Nevada, Oklahoma and South Carolina to the dining facility Feb. 9 at the CAB flight line.



Pfc. Monica K. Smith

THE Dog Face Daily

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 214th Fires Brigade
 7th Sustainment Brigade
 720th Military Police Battalion
 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

AL BAWI: Soldiers of 1-15th Inf. Regt. see improvements in village

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strong hold,” Clark said. “Between June and July we had two Huskies (engineering vehicles) and two tanks hit by IEDs.”

Clark noticed a significant change in the security of the area starting in early November. He attributes this turnaround to 563 members of the SoI patrolling the area and manning checkpoints in al Bawi. He said his main point of contact, Sheik Ali, leader of the SoI in the area, lives in al Bawi.

“He went from informing us of AQI leaders and IED emplacers to becoming the public figure for Salman Pak and the Mada’in Qada,” Clark said. “His personal land encompasses a decent part of Al Bawi so most of the Sons of Iraq are his relatives and people from his tribe.”

According to Company A, 1st Sgt. Troy Moore, from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., the SoI had a choice; they could either side with AQI or they could help Coalition Forces accomplish their mission of improving security.

“Al-Qaeda was using fear and intimidation to get their way,” Moore said. “These people are sick of that and are standing up for themselves. The Sons of Iraq program is a way for them to make money to support their families.”

Clark explained the SoI program caught on in Salman Pak after succeeding in other areas around the Mada’in Qada.

“I believe the program started in (Tuwaitha) and has had a lot of success,” Clark said. “This gave people faith and hope in that it wasn’t just a limited program in one area but that it was all through Iraq.”

Clark, Moore, and other Company



Sgt. Natalie Rostek

Maj. John Wolfe, a team leader in Co. A, 489th CA Bn., questions residents from al Bawi Feb. 6 about the security of a local pump station.

A Soldiers and leaders visited checkpoints along the route in al Bawi to inspect and assess the progress of the SoI manning the checkpoints.

“From what we saw, the checkpoints were fully manned and they had done a great job with the sandbags,” Clark said.

Clark meets with the SoI in al Bawi often, he said. The group has found over 40 IEDs and approximately 10 to 15 caches since last November.

Moore said meetings like this make it safer for Coalition Forces to be on the streets. He also believes the personal relationships with the SoI builds confi-

dence in group members.

“We have to show that we trust them,” Troy said. “If we don’t, they will ask ‘well why are we even doing this if you don’t trust us?’.”

Clark is proud of his Soldiers and the progress they have made in al Bawi.

“In the last three months we have seen a significant improvement in Salman Pak,” Clark said. “It has been 14 days since the last fire fight. Since the sunrise missions, things have been relatively quiet.

“We have found one IED since December. We were finding them every other day.”

Safety Thought of the Day

Tire Safety

- Prior to dislodging tire beads, lock-rings, or side ring flanges, be absolutely certain no air pressure remains in the tire.
- Never inflate a wheel assembly with wheel locknuts removed in an attempt to separate the inner and outer rim halves. The assembly will separate under pressure resulting in serious injury or death.
- Never exceed 3 psi (21 kpa) inflation prior to placing tire and wheel assembly

into inflation safety cage or mounting on a tire change machine that has a positive lockdown device.

- Improperly seated side flanges or lock-rings may fly off during inflation. Never attempt to seat a side ring flange or lock-ring during inflation or after inflation with a hammer or other tool.
- For additional information on tire maintenance, reference TM 9-2610-200-14.

Headline Highlights

Funeral stampede; Ireland right-hand driving

Funeral horses stampede, overturn hearse, coffins

LONDON (Reuters) — A hearse overturned when the horses pulling it to a south London cemetery stampeded, dragging the carriage and coffin past appalled relatives and sending floral tributes flying.

“It was dreadful,” a mourner told the South London Press. “The horses dragged the carriage to the cemetery on its side, tossing the coffin all over the place and destroying all the flowers inside.

“Some people got very angry and had to be restrained by other mourners ... It is understandable given the circumstances. I’m horrified that something like this could happen.”

Police were called to calm angry mourners so that the funeral last month could go ahead.

The carriage appeared to have clipped a mini-roundabout as it entered Lambeth Cemetery for the funeral, the local council which administers the graveyard said Friday.

Ireland debates switch to right-hand driving

DUBLIN (Reuters) — Ireland should consider giving up driving on the left to reduce accidents by foreigners accustomed to right side motoring, a senior politician said Friday.

Donie Cassidy, the leader of Ireland’s upper chamber Senate, cited Sweden — which moved to the right in 1967 — as an example of a country that switched decades after most of Europe did.

Ireland’s economic growth over the

past decade has attracted tens of thousands of workers especially from central and eastern European countries. It is also a popular tourist destination for visitors from the United States.

“We have all of these people coming in from Europe and from America and (because of) the roads that they are used to driving on in their own countries it is a huge difficulty when they start driving here,” Cassidy told public broadcaster RTE. “I know when I go to America it takes me five or six days to adjust.”

Motoring body the AA said the idea was “completely impractical.”

As another remedy, Cassidy suggested in the Senate on Thursday that people from countries driving on the right should observe a 50-mile-per-hour speed limit, compared with speeds up to 120 km permitted for Irish drivers.

More than 100 cats rescued from Olympics site

LONDON (Reuters) — More than 160 feral cats and kittens have been rescued from the site of the London 2012 Olympics as demolition work continues at a pace.

A local animal charity has been allowed access to the site to ensure the safety of the cats that have taken refuge in the various industrial buildings that are being bulldozed.

The Olympic Delivery Authority said Friday that 168 animals had been discovered and were now in the care of the Celia Hammond Animal Trust.

The ODA, which has also re-housed newts, frogs and fish from the east London site, said demolition work was ex-

pected to be completed in March with construction on the main venues beginning later this year.

Less spitting, better queuing

BEIJING (Reuters) — Less spitting, better queuing and cleaner streets show Beijing has become more “civilized,” but the city still has to fine-tune its etiquette to attain Olympic standards, Xinhua news agency said Friday, citing a new study.

China wants to leave nothing to chance when the eyes of the world turn its way for the Olympics in August and the Beijing government has waged a long campaign to hone manners.

Renmin University created an annual “civic index” three years ago to gauge progress, surveying thousands of residents and sending out teams of observers, Xinhua said.

The 2007 results all pointed in the right direction: 2.5 percent of people spat in public, down from 4.9 percent in 2006; instances of queue jumping dropped to 1.5 percent from 6 percent; and littering fell to 2.9 percent from 5.3 percent.

In the drive to reform behavior, Beijing has instituted the 11th of every month as “voluntarily wait in line” day, distributed millions of etiquette pamphlets and threatened to detain boorish fans at sporting events.

But city officials cannot afford to let their guard down yet.

Beijing’s aggregate score in the civic index was 73.4 last year, still below the Olympics target of 80 points, Sha Lianxian, a sociology professor at Renmin’s University, told Xinhua.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to Saturday’s puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

South

jih-noob