

Cache found near Babahani

4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — Coalition Forces and Iraqi Army Soldiers found two large weapons caches containing 361 60mm mortars, 34 82mm mortars and 45 rocket-propelled grenade motors in the

area of Babahani, Iraq, Feb. 12.

Soldiers from Military Transition Team 842, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Di-

vision were looking for the caches based on intelligence received by the Iraqi brigade.

“The Iraqi Army has matured into a tough, dedicated and competent force and is more than capable of conducting independent

operations on par with their American counterparts,” said Capt. Alex Vershinin, from New Albany, Ohio, MiTT 842.

An explosive ordnance disposal team disposed of the caches with a controlled detonation.

Professional Iraqi women discuss issues in Radwaniyah

SGT. 1ST CLASS KERENSA HARDY
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

CAMP STRIKER — Several Iraqi female professionals sat down with U.S. female Soldiers to talk about the future of women in Iraq Feb. 12 at the Radwaniyah Palace Complex Civil Military Operations Center.

As part of a Task Force Marne initiative, Rakkasans of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) are taking steps to establish a dialogue with Iraqi women and learn what can be done to improve their overall condition. A primary goal is to better understand the women of Iraq and generate ideas to help them achieve personal and professional goals.

There are obvious needs that affect both genders and all economic classes — shortages of potable water, electricity, teachers and medical care. The group of professional women had one suggestion to remedy some of those problems.

“Our culture should provide these women with school or training to help



Capt. Allison Flannigan

Dr. Ahlam Turki, an obstetrician/gynecologist, speaks to a group of women as Dr. Suzan, a pediatrician, and Fawzia, a registered nurse, listen. The three women are advisors with 360th Civil Affairs Brigade.

them have a good life in the future,” said Samera Al-Ali, head of Iraqi Women’s Organization. She said by learning a vocational or technical skill, women would become more confident.

A point raised during the meeting was that needs of women differ based on whether they live in a city or in a village in a more rural area. One argu-

ment was that women in cities have more time on their hands to work than those who live in rural areas.

“We need to focus on helping the women who live in the cities,” Samera said. “The women who live in the villages, in rural areas, already have jobs

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'Village of Hope' emerges in Hawr Rajab

SGT. JASON STADEL
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — Educational and economic opportunities for Hawr Rajab citizens are emerging with the Village of Hope program. Designed to teach Iraqis vocational skills such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing and well-drilling, classes will begin in the upcoming weeks.

The vocational-technical school is being built on the grounds of Patrol Base Stone, in Troop A, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment's area of operations in Hawr Rajab.

"We want to teach Iraqis skills so they can get sustained employment," said Lt. Col. Mark Solomon, 6-8th Cav. Regt. commander.

Soldiers of the 6-8th Cav. Regt. and Airmen of the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron are working together on the project. The Airmen are from the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron, Malstrom Air Force Base, in Great Falls, Mont. The 557th ERHS is a civil engineering unit, composed of Airmen from the active duty Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

The 557th ERHS is headquartered at Balad Air Base, but the unit has teams working at different locations throughout Iraq.

"Everyone working on the Village of Hope volunteered to go," said Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Kapp, the Air Force liaison to the Army for the project. "Everyone is excited and happy to make a difference."

Airmen will be teaching construction classes at the school.

Before teaching begins, the training area needs to be completed. PB Stone



Sgt. Jason Stadel

Tech Sgt. Wayne Dingle, an electrical engineer, works on a structure being built as part of the Village of Hope program in Hawr Rajab.

will expand considerably as the Airmen build living quarters for themselves and put up tents where classes will be held.

Teaching the Iraqis trade skills will be a new experience for most of the Airmen but they feel up to the challenge.

"I think it's important these guys learn to build; they need to sustain themselves," said Master Sgt. Rodney Kilby, a structural craftsman. "I really think we can make a difference by teaching them."

Master Sgt. John Hudson, logistical craftsman with the 557th ERHS, said the Village of Hope is a positive step and a chance for Iraqis to improve their community. "Usually we're building to

stay," he said. "This is the first part of my tour where we're building to leave."

Teaching will encompass more than classroom lectures. Students will have hands-on experience and help rebuild their community simultaneously.

"With the help of the instructors, the classes will be rebuilding 10 houses that have been destroyed and repairing 30 houses that have been damaged," Kapp said. Physically rebuilding the community will also help boost the economy as most materials needed for construction will be bought from local merchants.

Each Village of Hope class will be three months long and include 50 students.

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3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division
214th Fires Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

WOMEN: *Iraqi women meet, discuss local issues*

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– they cook, clean, tend to the land and cows and take care of their homes and families.”

Samera wants to start a vocational-technical center to teach women trades where they can earn money to help care for their families.

“We can support these women by (making them) dependent on themselves and make contributions to the society,” she said.

Perceived security in any area will play a role in whether or not women participate in training outside the home. All the attendees at the meeting agreed that men must play an integral role in achieving change.

What will make a difference in this male-dominated society is for sheiks to lead by example by allowing their wives to participate in programs that are initiated, said Spc. Eman Palaez, an Arabic interpreter who works for 3rd BCT 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT). There are plans to host a forum for sheiks and tribal leaders of the community to explain the initiatives for Iraqi women and attempt to gain their support.

The Soldiers left the meeting armed with insight to use in future engagements with Iraqi women.

“It was a positive experience interacting with established bilingual, bicultural advisors in hopes of gaining knowledge and understanding to assist other Iraqi women with social and economic needs,” said Capt. Martrell Gamble, the officer in charge of the women’s outreach project for 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT).

Female servicemembers plan to meet with Iraqi women in Mahmudiyah and Lutfiyah within the next week.

“We would like the opportunity to solicit and better (meet) the needs of the local Iraqi women in the Mahmudiyah Qada,” Gamble said.



Sgt. Anthony Sayre

Soldiers from Co. B, 3-7th Inf. Regt. found a weapons cache in two separate holes in Diddum Feb. 11.

Weapons found in Diddum region

4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — Coalition Forces found a large weapon cache in two separate holes approximately 30 meters apart in Diddum, Iraq, Feb. 11.

The cache contained approximately 1,000 pounds of unknown bulk explosives, barrels of ordinance containing 60 mm, 82 mm and 120 mm rounds, 107 mm rockets, OG-7, PG-7, OG-9, various fuses and mortar rounds.

In addition, approximately 1,500 pounds of unknown bulk explosives in white bags were found about 20 meters away.

“I know this was definitely the

biggest cache we’ve found since we got here,” said Sgt. Scott Murray, 1st Platoon forward observer, 3-7th Inf. Regt.

“We’re pretty relieved to get rid of this stuff and (get it) out of somebody else’s hands.”

Soldiers from 3-7th Inf. Regt. were able to find the cache with the help of intelligence from concerned residents in the area.

“I will always tell Coalition Forces about any weapons hidden in my area that I know about,” said Sheik Satar Naim Lalau al-Janabi, a local leader in the Diddum region. “Hopefully insurgents will learn that they cannot find a place in Diddum to hide things.”

Safety Thought of the Day

Weight-Lifting Safety

DO

- Use spotters when you try the major lifts.
- Keep your back straight when lifting.
- Use proper lifting technique when moving weights around the room.
- Make sure the your equipment is in good condition.

DON'T

- Hyperventilate or hold your breath when you lift heavy weights. You may faint and lose control of

the weights. Breathe out when you lift.

- Continue any lifting if you feel pain. Stop the painful exercise for a few days, or try it with less weight.
- Exercise any set of muscles more than three times a week.
- “Cheat” on your technique to lift heavier weights than you can handle.
- Lift heavy weight without spotters.
- Lift more than you know you can lift safely.

Headline Highlights

White stag spotting; microfiber electricity

Ghost-like white stag spotted

LONDON (Reuters) — A mythical and ghostly creature has appeared in the wilds of the Scottish Highlands — and has been caught on camera.

The rare white stag, from the red deer species, is believed to be among just a tiny handful living in Britain, according to a conservation group. The John Muir Trust is keeping the stag's location secret for fear of poachers.

"To see him amongst the other stags was truly thrilling because he does look like a ghost: you do a double-take," Trust Partnership Manager Fran Lockhart, who filmed the stag, told Reuters.

White stags are seen as a magical and powerful force in many mythologies. The animal's ghostly glow comes from a recessive gene which causes leucism, a condition which reduces the normal brown coloring in hair and skin. They are not albinos, which have red eyes due to lack of pigment.

In Celtic traditions, white stags represent messengers from the afterlife. Arthurian legend has it that the creature can never be caught — King Arthur's pursuit of the animal represents mankind's spiritual quest. It is also said that for those who set eyes on the animal, a momentous moment is near.

"They say their appearance is meant to herald some profound change in life for those who encounter them — but I am still waiting," said Lockhart.

Her dog, though, stood transfixed for 45 minutes watching the white stag, instead of his usual scampering around.

Lockhart believes the Scottish Highlands' white stag is between 6 and 7 years old. She said he is maturing well,

with a good set of antlers.

The last official recording of a white red stag in Britain, not to be confused with the more common white fallow deer, was last October when the body of one was found decapitated on the moors between Devon and Cornwall.

Microfiber fabric makes its own electricity?

CHICAGO (Reuters) — U.S. scientists have developed a microfiber fabric that generates its own electricity, making enough current to recharge a cell phone or ensure that a small MP3 music player never runs out of power.

If made into a shirt, the fabric could harness power from its wearer simply walking around or even from a slight breeze, they reported Wednesday in the journal Nature.

"The fiber-based nanogenerator would be a simple and economical way to harvest energy from the physical movement," Zhong Lin Wang of the Georgia Institute of Technology, who led the study, said in a statement.

The nanogenerator takes advantage of the semiconductive properties of zinc oxide nanowires — tiny wires 1,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair — embedded into the fabric. The wires are formed into pairs of microscopic brush-like structures, shaped like a baby-bottle brush.

One of the fibers in each pair is coated with gold and serves as an electrode. As the bristles brush together through a person's body movement, the wires convert the mechanical motion into electricity.

"When a nanowire bends it has an

electric effect," Wang said in a telephone interview. "What the fabric does is it translates the mechanical movement of your body into electricity."

His team made the nanogenerator by first coating fibers with a polymer, and then a layer of zinc oxide. They dunked this into a warm bath of reactive solution for 12 hours. This encouraged the wires to multiply, coating the fibers.

"They automatically grow on the surface of the fiber," Wang said. "In principal, you could use any fiber that is conductive."

They added another layer of polymer to prevent the zinc oxide from being scrubbed off. And they added an ultra-thin layer of gold to some fibers, which works as a conductor. To ensure all that friction was not just generating static electricity, the researchers conducted several tests. The fibers produced current only when both the gold and the zinc oxide bristles brushed together.

So far, Wang said the researchers had demonstrated the principle and developed a small prototype.

"Our estimates show we can have up to 80 milliwatts per square meter of this fabric. This is enough to power a little iPod or charge a cell phone battery," he said. "What we've done is demonstrate the principle and the fundamental mechanism."

Wang said the material could be used by hikers and soldiers in the field and also to power tiny sensors used in biomedicine or environmental monitoring. One major hurdle remains: zinc oxide degrades when wet. Wang's team is working on a process that would coat the fibers to protect the fabric in the laundry.

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Show me

Ru-wee-nee