

THE

Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

MoE reconstructs power line towers

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

FOB KALSU — With assistance from Coalition troops and Iraqi Security Forces, Ministry of Electricity workers are rapidly reconstructing three high-tension power line towers in Sayafiyah, 25 kilometers south of Baghdad.

Soldiers of Troop A, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and members of an Iraqi Police security detail are providing security for 130 workers from the MoE rebuilding the structures, which form part of Baghdad's 'power belt'.

"There is a 400 kilovolt distribution ring that goes around Baghdad and this (section) is the southern part of it," said 1st Lt. Matthew Shoop, electrical projects engineer, 2-3 Brigade Troop Battalion, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Shoop said he worked with 3rd Inf. Div. leaders and officials from the MoE to iron out a plan for the repairs.

"Once we told them (MoE) that we could secure them, their response was, 'pick a date, tell us when and we can go'," Shoop said.

Ministry of Electricity workers hang from a portion of high-tension power line tower as it's lowered into place in Sayafiyah, 25 kilometers south of Baghdad, Feb. 17. The construction site is guarded by Soldiers of Troop A, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment.

The masses of distorted steel and broken power lines resulted from a snapped power line which threw the equally-distributed tension off-balance, causing the three towers to buckle.

With workers spread out over three construction sites, the task of dismantling the old towers and rebuilding new ones was set to take 10 days.

Work began Feb. 14 and MoE workers quickly took apart the twisted wreckage. By day three, the remains of the old structures lay by the wayside.

Using hand tools and heavy

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Photo by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
Photo illustration by
Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft



IA Soldiers recover munitions from one of four large caches discovered in Yusufiyah Feb. 18.



Sgt. Todd Buttillo

IA, Iron Rakkasans discover caches

CAPT. ALLISON FLANNIGAN
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

CAMP STRIKER — Iraqi Army and Iron Rakkasan Soldiers discovered four weapon caches in Yusufiyah, Feb. 18.

Troops from 4th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and Company C, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) acted on a tip from a local citizen questioned by the IA. The man admitted to being a member of al-Qaeda in Iraq and told the IA the location of the caches.

The four caches were located within a square quarter-mile area. After each cache was revealed, the man told the Soldiers the location of the next until all four were discovered.

Each cache had several large plastic tubes, between two- and four-feet long, buried vertically in the ground and loaded with munitions. Collectively, the caches yielded approximately 400 60 mm mortar rounds, 300 82 mm mortar rounds, 50 120 mm mortar rounds, a complete 60 mm mortar system, seven ski masks, hundreds of mortar parts, 100 pounds of unknown bulk explo-

sives and instruction manuals.

After collecting the munitions, the Soldiers talked with people who live near the cache sites. One citizen stepped forward and said he had something to show the Soldiers.

"I had heard that there might have been spider holes in the area and I mentioned that to the people we were talking to," said 1st Lt. Casey Zimmerman, 3rd Platoon leader, Co. C, 3-187th Inf. Regt. "Sure enough, one of the farmers told me there was a spider hole on his farm."

The Soldiers originally thought it was a small hole, barely large enough to hide two adults. Once they started digging, however, they found a room that was 10 feet by 12 feet, complete with an aluminum ceiling.

With the help of the local populace, Iron Rakkasans of Co. C, 3-187th Inf. Regt. and their IA partners have found seven caches in the last three weeks.

"Counterinsurgency operations are fundamentally driven by the relationship between the IA and Coalition Forces Soldiers and the local citizens," Zimmerman said. "Everyone is working together for the security and future development of the community."

Answers to Black History Month Quiz #1

1. Philip Randolph
2. Maryland
3. BET Holdings
4. Frederick Douglass Patterson
5. The African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME)
6. France
7. Alain Locke
8. Alice Walker
9. Emmitt Smith
10. Eric Monte
11. A Soldier's Story
12. Whoopi Goldberg
13. Mahalia Jackson
14. 1953
15. Devil in a Blue Dress
16. Rhode Island
17. 1849
18. (You provide answer based on location and establishment.)
19. Thirty-eight
20. Illinois

THE Dog Face Daily

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MOE: Ministry of Electricity rebuilding high-tension power lines

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equipment, the workers labored quickly and by the morning of day four, they had nearly completed constructing sections of all three towers.

Phillip Vizgaudis, scout section leader with Troop A, 5-7 Cav. Regt., said he was impressed with how much the workers accomplished in the short amount of time.

Vizgaudis and his Soldiers escort the workers from main roads to the construction site and are keeping the site secure. Though the task seemed daunting, the work was nothing new to the workers who specialize in constructing these towers.

Hussein Lefta Mansoor, construction site manager for the MoE, initially told 2nd BCT leaders he and his workers could have the towers up in as few as 10 days. On day four of the operation, he cut the estimated completion time down to one week.

Shoop said once the towers are reconstructed and power lines put into place, the region could see a boost in their share of the power ration, which is metered out by the MoE.

With the present condition of the government of Iraq's electrical infrastructure, Mansoor and his colleagues see no scarcity of building projects.

"Our specialty is what you see," said Mansoor, pointing to his employees. "We are the only crew who specializes in this."

With the current project targeted for completion Feb. 21, Mansoor is already thinking about his next tower-reconstructing assignment, dedicated to his role as a key player in the effort to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure.

MoE workers reconstruct power lines in Sayafiya Feb. 17.



Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Safety Thought of the Day

Chock Blocks

- Remember to always chock your vehicles when they are to be left unattended.
- Be sure to place chock block on the down slope side (if unsure, block it front and rear).
- Chock vehicles prior to using jacks and

jack stands.

- In the absence of chock blocks, use sand bags, large rocks, or any object that will restrict vehicle movement.
- A ratio of one chock block per vehicle is considered the norm. More are better, fewer are unacceptable.

Headline Highlights

South Korean dog-sled racing; rescued sailors

North Koreans baffled by mushing neighbours

MOUNT KUMGANG, North Korea (Reuters) — Neither war, armed troops or befuddled border guards could stop South Korean dog sled teams from going to North Korea and mushing on Sunday where none of them have mushed before.

About 80 dogs from the South made what is almost certainly the largest canine crossing of the heavily armed border for the race at the Mount Kumgang resort, which is run by an affiliate of the South's Hyundai Group.

With nary a snowflake on the course, about 35 dog teams pulled sleds on wheels along a coastal road with the scenic Diamond Mountain range as a backdrop.

No North Koreans competed. The few who saw the race were soldiers standing at wind-swept guard posts.

In the impoverished north, dogs are known as man's best friend for very different reasons than the West.

"The North Koreans think dogs are for eating, and not for sport," said Yunis Cho, one of the South Korean dog sled racers.

The Kumgang resort is supposed to be a place that brings people closer together from the two countries that technically have not ended their 1950-1953 war.

But the dog race showed just how far they have drifted apart.

North Korea is one of the world's most isolated and poorest states where dog sledding is unknown, and expen-

sive hobbies like it are unthinkable.

In the affluent South, some people pay sums greater than the average annual wage of a North Korean worker for a pedigree pooch.

As South Koreans grow richer and worldlier, sports like dog sledding are taking off, with many mushers saying they were first exposed to it through events like Alaska's famed Iditarod race.

It took years of planning to hold a race in North Korea, but that did not prevent confusion at the border where the North's quarantine inspectors tried to figure out what to make of the canine cargo.

"They don't know about foreign dogs, especially huskies, malamutes or borzoi. They have only seen Korean breeds," said Kim Tae-ryong, president of the South's Korea Federation of Sled-dog Sports.

The dogs spent the night before the race in cages outside one of the South Korean-run hotels in Kumgang howling at the moon and barking at tour buses. Kim said the race in the North would help bring attention to the sport in the South while also introducing it to their Korean brothers across the border.

Lee Ki-woon, who is one of the few people in South Korea who breeds the North Korean dog called "poongsan", took two of the snow white canines to Kumgang.

"It probably feels like a homecoming for them," Lee said, but when one of the dogs broke out of his collar and ran freely before his owner rounded him up, it looked more like a defection.

North Korean workers who are being watched by the country's spy apparatus to make sure they do not become too cordial with South Koreans, mostly kept their lips sealed about the competition.

Apart from the typical, "No comment," one brave North Korean went as far as to say: "I like dogs."

Sailors plucked from trimaran off New Zealand

WELLINGTON (Reuters) — Helicopters rescued 10 sailors from a French trimaran that overturned off the east coast of New Zealand Monday.

Three aircraft winched the sailors from the Groupama III after it capsized about 80 nautical miles (150 kilometres) off the coast of the South Island and took them to the city of Dunedin.

"All are uninjured and were all dressed in survival gear when they were picked up from the yacht's hull," the New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre said in a statement.

The crew were given medical checks before being released.

The yacht was taking part in the Jules Verne Round the World Yacht Race when it overturned in 10-foot swells and winds of about 30 knots, forcing the crew onto the upturned hull.

It is not known what caused the boat to capsize.

The alarm was raised by French rescue authorities, who received a signal from the yacht's emergency beacon and notified their New Zealand counterparts.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to
yesterday's
puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Please

Ru-jah-en