

# THE Dog Face Daily

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*Serving Task Force Marne*



Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Navy Capt. Donald McMahon, 3rd Civil Affairs Battalion commander, and 1st Sgt. Robert Fletcher, battalion command sergeant major, prepare to re-case the battalion colors during a transfer of authority ceremony Feb. 28 at Camp Slayer.

## 3rd CA Bn. hands over, heads home

SPC. EMILY J. WILSONCROFT  
EDITOR

BAGHDAD — One year after its formation, 3rd Civil Affairs Battalion has completed the deployment for which it was created, and is heading home.

A transfer of authority ceremony was held Feb. 28 at Camp Slayer for the battalion to officially hand over responsibility for the Multi-National Division – Center civil affairs mission to 401st Civil Affairs Battalion.

“Over the last year, the 3rd CA Battalion integrated seamlessly with the 3rd Infantry Division, working to rekindle hope for Iraqis in the MND-C area of operations when many thought that the battle was unwinnable,” said 360th Civil Affairs Brigade commander Col. Hugh Van Roosen. “They became the masters of the Marne kinetic in the land of the two rivers.”

During its attachment to 3rd Inf. Div., the battalion made significant strides in the areas of security, reconstruction, governance, economics and humanitarian assistance.

“Under the steadfast leadership of (Navy) Captain (Donald) McMahon and 1st Sergeant (Robert)

See TOA, Page 3

## 3rd BSTB assesses dairy farm near Wehida

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

FOB HAMMER — Members of the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion and the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team’s Provincial Reconstruction Team, conducted

an assessment of the al Nasser Dairy Farm, in a village near Wehida, Feb. 26.

Floyd Wood, from Manassas, Va., agricultural adviser to the brigade from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Lt. Col. Todd Ratliff, from Holland, Ohio, com-

mander of the 3rd BSTB, talked with the farm’s managerial staff and workers regarding opportunities for the brigade to provide technical and financial assistance.

Spc. Amy Graybeal, a Soldier from the PRT who grew up on a dairy farm in Peach

Bottom, Pa., said the farm is similar to those one might see in California.

“The climate here is similar to that of California’s,” she said. “It looks like they don’t have as many cows for

See DAIRY, Page 2



Sgt. Natalie Rostek

Spc. Stephen Stricklin, Headquarters Company, 3rd BSTB, feeds a cow Feb. 26 at the al Nasser Dairy Farm, in a village near Wehida.

## DAIRY: Hammer Soldiers tour, assess Wenida dairy farm facilities

From Page 1

as much equipment as they have.”

Her assessment was correct. Wood met with several members of the farm’s leadership, including the farm manager, veterinarian, feed and nutrition specialist and financial manager.

He learned from the group that the amount of both dairy cows and farming staff has drastically decreased due to irrigation problems.

The farm now staffs approximately 20 employees and houses 1,000 dairy cows. When fully operational, the farm had 1,000 employees

and 8,000 cows.

“They need to ship in about 50,000 gallons of water a week just for the cows to drink and for operational maintenance,” Wood said. “They need enough water to irrigate about 3,500 acres of land to produce feed for the cows. Basically right now there are just enough workers to keep the cows alive.”

Wood said the bulk of the employees used to work in the fields tending to the alfalfa, clover and corn used to feed the cows. Without the proper amount of water to irrigate the fields, crops cannot grow, resulting in loss of jobs for the workers and

malnutrition for the cows.

“The feed is also shipped in but it’s poor quality,” Wood said. “They have to slaughter about 25 cows per month due to malnutrition. The manager told me he gives the meat from the slaughtered cows to the workers and poor families in the area.”

As a result of less production, Iraqis who relied on the farm for their dairy needs are also feeling the effects.

“When the farm was fully functional, they were a large distributor of milk to south central Iraq, primarily Baghdad,” Wood said. “Now that they can no longer do that, milk is being imported from Kuwait or Jordan, causing the prices to go up. Mid- to lower-income families can’t

afford it anymore, so this problem is not just affecting direct employment, but it’s also affecting the quality of life.”

Wood, Ratliff, Graybeal and 3rd BSTB Soldiers toured the milking facility and cow parlors, accompanied by the farm’s managers and staff.

Graybeal said she was surprised at how modern and functional the facility was, with several automatic milking stations and devices which digitally track milk production for each dairy cow. When the assessment was complete, the group went to the source of the farm’s irrigation problems; the al Khachia irrigation pump station.

Wood said last March members of al-Qaeda destroyed the pump station, which had provided water to a large portion of the Mada’in Qada, the 3rd HBCT area of operation.

He said Coalition forces’ main effort is to get the Ministry of Irrigation on board to repair the station.

According to Maj. Cliff Faulkner, commander of Company A, 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, the plan is to have the government of Iraq move sub-pumps from the al Bawi pump station to the al Khachia irrigation pump station.

“The pumps move water down the canal,” he said. “A lot of people depend on them.”

## THE Dog Face Daily

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## TOA: 3rd CA Bn. turns MND-C mission over to 401st CA Bn.

From Page 1

Fletcher, the battalion conducted nearly 3,000 missions without incident," Van Roosen said. "Businesses were re-opened, infrastructure was refurbished and capacity was restored.

"This period has seen an utterly impressive decline in attacks and violence that is clearly linked to the efforts of the 3rd CA Battalion. Two provinces have been returned to Iraqi control, with two more soon to follow. The professionalism, dedication and valor of the members of the 3rd CA Battalion contributed directly to the success enjoyed by MND-C," Van Roosen said.

The battalion is a provisional unit, made up of 207 servicemembers from all branches of the military, brought together specifically to support MND-C.

"Our vision was to be acknowledged as the world's finest civil affairs battalion, second to none, ready to fight hard and win," said McMahon, 3rd CA Bn. commander. "Organization may have been a bit messy at times, but the leaders and noncommissioned officers worked through the issues and I believe the results speak for themselves."

Among other accomplishments, the battalion disbursed more than \$150 million in reconstruction projects such as the Iskandariyah Industrial Complex and worked hand-in-hand with the Babil Provincial Reconstruction Team in supporting the government of Iraq.

The battalion also distributed \$2.3 million in humanitarian aid packages of food, construction and medical aid materials to local communities.



Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, MND-C commander, presents Soldiers from 3rd CA Bn. with a coin Feb. 28 to acknowledge a job well done.

McMahon thanked all of his Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen for a job well done.

"When we first came together," he said, "I challenged all of us to look ourselves in the mirror ... we'd see wonderful Americans at a specific time in history, committed to making a positive impact in Iraq, in support of our country's goals and objectives.

"I also asked if you wanted to be a 'star' — safety first ... train to fight hard and win; achievement of excellence in all that you do and respect for yourselves and each other ... I think I can answer yes to both of those."

McMahon then addressed his team's successors.

"We turn the reigns over to Lt. Col. (Jon Regan) Walters, Command Sergeant Major (Stephen) Coville and the

401st Civil Affairs Battalion," he said. "The battalion is healthy, experienced and ready to go. We look forward to reading about your successes over the next three months."

The colors of the 401st CA Bn. were unfurled and blowing in the breeze, with those of the 3rd CA Bn. re-cased and prepared to depart.

"We're really proud today to be taking over from the 3rd Provisional CA Battalion in support of 3rd ID and Task Force Marne," Walters said. "Because of their hard work and accomplishments, Iraq is a safer place. The Soldiers of the 401st CA Battalion will strive to build upon the foundation that the 3rd CA has left us. They've built a good foundation for us. We intend to work to achieve an irreversible momentum as we go forward."

### Safety Thought of the Day

#### Situational Awareness

- Engaged leaders with a heightened sense of situational awareness are better equipped to take the fight to the enemy.
  - Well disciplined, trained and informed Soldiers are less likely to become complacent and will follow established policies and procedures.
  - Never allow Soldiers to take short cuts or become complacent.
- Be vigilant and deliberate in all operations, the enemy is always watching and observing.
- The lack of situational awareness is the number-one contributing factor in most fratricide incidents.
  - Keep your dukes up!



File photo

## Headline Highlights

# Pregnant 'sorceress'; counterfeit Ferrari sales

## Finnish minister says men should do more at home

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) — Stefan Wallin has a message for men — do more housework, help with the children and spend more time at home.

"Equality starts at home," Wallin, Finland's minister for culture and sports, told Reuters on Tuesday in an interview on the sidelines of an annual gathering of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women.

Most countries, if they even have a gender equality department at a government ministry, have put a woman in charge. But Wallin, whose portfolios include that responsibility, said he hoped a time would come when no one would ask if any position — at home or the office — was right for a man or woman.

"Take more responsibility for things at home," was Wallin's message to men with families.

The benefits of this go beyond the simple creation of an egalitarian relationship enabling women to free themselves from the traditional role of mother and housewife.

"The more the fathers take responsibility for things at home, the less divorces you have," he said. "There's a direct correlation. It is, of course, also about respecting each other and trying to make life easier for each other."

Governments and employers must also ensure that men and women have an equal chance to spend time at home when children are born.

He is pushing a Finnish plan that he calls "six plus six plus six," under

which mothers and fathers would get six months of maternity and paternity leave each and another six months to divide among themselves.

It is based on a model in Iceland, where mothers and fathers get three months each and another three to divide.

## Pregnant woman hanged for sorcery, gives birth

PORT MORESBY (Reuters) — A Papua New Guinea woman gave birth prematurely as she struggled to free herself from a hangman's noose after villagers lynched her and her husband believing they were involved in sorcery, local media reported.

Nolan Yekum and her husband Paul were lynched in Kilip village in the jungle-clad western highlands two weeks ago after villagers believed they used black magic to kill a neighbour.

The villagers dragged the couple from their home and hung them from a tree and left them to die, Paul Yekum told The National newspaper on Wednesday.

"We managed to loosen the noose to get our feet on the ground ... we were able to free ourselves," he said. "My wife, who was about seven months pregnant, delivered the baby while struggling to free herself. It was a painful experience for me and her."

For the next two weeks the couple hid with friends in other villages, but eventually decided to seek medical help at the Mount Hagen Hospital. The couple, speaking from the hospital, said

they did not practice sorcery and did not know why their neighbour died.

Hospital staff said the couple's baby girl and her mother were doing fine after they were admitted last Saturday.

Black magic is widespread in the South Pacific nation where most of the 5.1 million population live subsistence lives. Women suspected of being witches are often hanged or burnt to death.

## Want to buy a fake Ferrari?

ROME (Reuters) — Italians are used to buying bogus Gucci bags or Rolex watches to look stylish but police found a new height of craftsmanship and cunning when they broke up a ring selling fake Ferrari cars for a fraction of the real price.

Police accused 15 people of building the blood red sports cars and selling them to car fanatics on a budget, most of whom knew they were buying a counterfeit classic.

Car body workers who police called "very able" cobbled together mostly fake parts and a few original components. They used body parts from other makes of automobiles, such as chassis, roofs, hoods, trunks and doors.

The body parts were modified to look like Ferrari classics such as the 328 Gtb, which went out of production in the late 1980s.

Some of the cars sold for about 20,000 euros, about a tenth of the going price for some versions.

Police confiscated 21 cars, 14 of which had already been sold, and seven in production in Sicilian garages.

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to  
yesterday's  
puzzle:

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

## ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

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