

THE

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Serving Task Force Marne

Soldiers sling-load supplies



Sgt. Ben Brody

Soldiers from 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, prepare to sling-load a trailer onto a CH-47 Chinook at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq. The trailer is filled with supplies destined for troops at the newly-built Patrol Base Summers.

Iraqi Brick factory approaches pre-war capacity

SGT. 1ST CLASS SCOTT MAYNARD
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER – Revitalization of the Narhwan Brick Factory Complex (NBFC) has led to an explosion of employment.

Since January, employment numbers at the NBFC have quadrupled to nearly 15,000 workers; production is up more than 500 percent.

Lt. Col. Mark Sullivan, commander

of 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery, said the boom resulted from a deal between the Iraqi Minister of Oil and the NBFC union, comprised of four officials who represent the 167 businesses operating in the NBFC. Sullivan said the deal allocated enough heavy fuel oil (HFO) – the oil necessary to fire up the kilns to bake bricks – for the complex to boost production.

“I merely facilitated and connected

the owners with the Ministry of Oil,” said the native of Huntsville, Ala. “This was an Iraqi problem in need of an Iraqi solution and they did it.”

Six years ago, the NBFC was at full operating capacity, employing 25,000 Iraqis and producing nearly 8 million bricks per day.

“In 2002, the brick factory owners were here - we weren’t,” Sullivan said.

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Courtesy photo

Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, handed out Beanie Babies donated by children of North Hills Christian School in Salisbury, N.C.

Soldiers, stateside school bring smiles to Iraqi school children

2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – Iraqi school children in al Buaytha got toys from children their age halfway around the world March 24.

Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, distributed 400 Beanie Babies to children at the Oman and Nassir Schools. Students of North Hills Christian School in Salisbury, N.C., collected and sent the toys as a gift.

“It is important that we do anything

we can to make the children happy and help them, because the children are the future,” said Capt. Joseph Inge, a native of Richmond, Va., commander of Company D.

First Lt. Kirk Steiner, Company D fire support officer, gave his mother, who teaches at the school, credit for organizing the event.

“Most of these children have only seen their country during a time of war. It was great to be able to give them a small gift and see the smiles on their faces,” said Steiner, a native of Salisbury, N.C.

FACTORY

From previous page

“The Iraqis best understand the potential at the NBFC and we are just helping them reach that potential.”

Sullivan said the factory is crucial to reducing unemployment in the region. In Iraqi culture, the eldest male in the family is responsible to provide for his family; the NBFC offers that opportunity to provide.

“When you help one family leader in Narhwan, you are helping ten because their families are so large,” he said. “We saw a need for employment and the Iraqis fulfilled it. By having this factory employ the populace, it makes our mission safer.”

When 1-10 FA arrived in Narhwan in October, the NBFC was controlled by insurgents. A series of offensive operations ousted the insurgents, Sullivan said, returning the complex to its rightful owners.

“The security situation now has reached a level where factory owners and workers are comfortable enough to return to the NBFC and stand the businesses back up,” Sullivan said. “That’s where we are today with employment and it has the potential to get better.”

The HFO supply from the Government of Iraq is currently facing challenges, said Sullivan.

“During March, allocations of HFO to private enterprises ceased,” Sullivan said. “The owners are in the process of trying to resolve it. They have figured it out before; I am confident they will figure it out again.”

The 1-10 FA is part of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.

THE Dog Face Daily

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Al Nassir School gets face-lift

SGT. KEVIN STABINSKY
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – The al Nassir Elementary School is once again a kid-friendly place where area children can go to study.

The school, which suffered severe damage while al-Qaeda dominated the area, is now getting a face-lift thanks to the efforts of local residents and Coalition forces.

On March 25, Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, paid a visit to the school to view work being done by a local construction crew.

In the two months since the project began, school headmaster Mohammed Hussein Mohammed said the school is returning to its former glory.

Both girls and boys in grades 1 through 6 attend classes in the four buildings that comprise the school. Currently, 17 teachers work in the school, instructing more than 550 children from the communities of al Buaytha and Arab Jabour, Mohammed said.

First Lt. Bryan Diminico, platoon leader of 1st Platoon, was pleased by the progress. In addition to aesthetic improvements such as painting and filling in holes in the walls and ceilings, new electrical wiring has been laid down and a water pump installed to provide plumbing.

“We need to provide them education and knowledge. They need to know how to read and write.”

– Satar Mohammad Katham
Iraqi Ministry of Education

“It is getting better-looking each and every day,” the Hollywood, Fla., native said.

Still, much work remains to be done, Mohammed said. The school is 50-years-old and needs to be refurbished. Work needs to be done on all the buildings, even those currently housing classes.

To both educate students and improve the school simultaneously, classrooms are being rotated, said Staff Sgt. Phillip Moore, tank commander. Once classrooms are renovated, students move in and the rooms they vacate are worked on, the Columbus, Ohio, native said.

Diminico promised future meetings to discuss funding and improvements with Mohammed, who will also meet with a representative of the Iraqi Ministry of Education, Satar Mohammad Katham. Mohammed said he is in regular contact with Katham, and the Government of Iraq is paying the



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

An Iraqi worker adds a fresh coat of white paint to one of the buildings comprising the al Nassir School in al Buaytha.

teachers and showing a vested interest in the welfare of the school.

Such interest is necessary to provide a better future for the area, Mohammed said. Many adults in al Buaytha cannot read or write, something he wants to see change in the new generation.

“We need to provide them education and knowledge,” he said. “They need to know how to read and write.”

Safety Thought of the Day: Vehicle Rollover Reminders

Contributing Factors to Vehicle Rollovers

- Driving too fast for conditions.
- Driver inexperience.
- Narrow roads with soft shoulders.
- Larger & heavier vehicles.
- Failure to maintain adequate clearance from the shoulder of the road.

Mitigation Measures

- Adjust speeds for conditions.
- Know vehicle handling characteristics – especially if towing a trailer.
- Ensure thorough route recons to identify potential hazards.
- Ensure vehicle is PMCS'd and that tire pressure is correct.
- Enforce standards, use CRM principles, and follow good TTPs.

Leader Checks

- Enforce seatbelts and gunners harnesses.

- Use the HEAT trainer to build rote & muscle memory.
- Ensure rollover drills, escape & rescue procedures with positive crew coordination are practiced.
- Brief driver & TC to avoid panic maneuvers & maintain proper following intervals.



Headline Highlights

Millionaire back to work; falling rocket; royal plane leased

Record bingo winner to keep working as cleaner

LONDON (Reuters) – A Scottish cleaner who won a record bingo jackpot over the Easter weekend said she would return to work as normal on Tuesday.

Soraya Lowell, 38, won the national jackpot of 1,167,795 pounds (\$2.3 million) at a bingo hall in Coatbridge, north Lanarkshire.

“I don’t intend to give up my job. I like the girls I work with, and they have already said to me ‘don’t pack it in,’” she said. “I haven’t slept at all but I will be back at work on Tuesday as usual.”

The mother-of-four from Hamilton, Lanarkshire, said her husband Frankie didn’t believe her when she called home with the news. Her oldest children have already asked her to buy them cars.

Steve Baldwin, of the National Bingo Game, said Sunday’s win was the biggest ever.

“We are thrilled for Soraya and look forward to presenting her with her record-breaking check,” he said.

Russian farmer sues space agency for falling rocket

BARNAUL, Russia (Reuters) - A shepherd is suing Russia’s space agency for compensation after he said a 10-foot-long chunk of metal from a space rocket fell into his yard, just missing his outdoor toilet.

Boris Urmatov, who is asking for 1 million roubles (\$42,000) from the

Roskosmos agency, lives in a small village that lies underneath the flight path of rockets taking off from the Baikonur launchpad Russia leases in nearby Kazakhstan.

Residents in the neighboring village of Ust-Kan said rocket pieces regularly rain down on their area. Parts of the surrounding countryside are designated special zones where people may not go during the launches.

“Sometimes it’s smooth metal casings, sometimes it’s bolts. I remember something like an engine fell once,” said Anatoly Kazakov, an Ust-Kan resident.

“THEY FLY, THEY FALL”

Roskosmos said it regularly warns residents when a launch is scheduled, and in a history stretching back over 50 years and 400 rockets, only a few space-bound rocket parts have fallen outside designated areas.

“Technologically speaking, these parts are supposed to fall off during a launch. They fly, they fall, they fly, they fall. It’s how they work,” said Roskosmos spokesman Alexander Vorobyov.

He said Roskosmos regularly sends out an investigation team to check on reports of damage from rocket parts, but it could only pay compensation if a court rules for damages.

“If a court determines that, yes, those are rocket parts, they fell on his land, then for sure he will be compensated. No question about it. We live in a civilized, law-abiding country,” Vorobyov said.

Don’t worry darling, it’s only a refueling plane

LONDON (Reuters) – It may be the biggest honeymoon secret ever – from 2011, newlyweds can start their dream trip on a Royal Air Force mid-air refueling plane, and the chances are they will be blissfully unaware of their luck.

Britain’s military is leasing a fleet of aerial tankers from a private consortium led by Airbus parent EADS in a landmark outsourcing deal to be unveiled on Thursday.

The converted A330 passenger jets can carry 60 tonnes of fuel to refuel up to four fighters far away from base or else serve as transporters carrying 300 troops and their equipment.

Officials involved in the project say some of the jets will also double as charter planes for tourists to earn their keep whenever they are not needed to serve the front line.

Because new jetliners are more efficient than the decades-old VC-10s and Tristars they replace, there will be enough space for fuel for refueling in the aircraft’s main tanks as well as a fully fitted cabin interior for passengers.

With a plain livery, most passengers should be unaware their ordinary looking charter jet may have seen action over Afghanistan or Iraq on – hopefully – separate missions.

With one of its ordinary airline users, it flies daily from France to holiday and honeymoon destinations in the Caribbean.

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday’s puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

target

hed-def