

THE

Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

ISF find largest cache to date in MND-C

4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – A tip led Iraqi Security Forces to the largest explosively-formed penetrator cache found to date in Multi-National Division – Center’s area of operation, April 2. The munitions were discovered in a 6-ton truck in a garage in al Qasim.

The cache contained more than 1,000 EFP components, more than 3,000 pounds of explosives and 45 Ka-

tusha 107 mm rockets and stands. Also included in the cache were more than 10 devices used to detonate improvised explosive devices, 250 PKC rounds, 10 60 mm mortar shells and one 60 mm stand.

The rockets are believed to have been manufactured in Iran.

“The ISF continue to confiscate the lethal tools of the enemy, disrupt the enemy’s freedom of maneuver, and apprehend key members of the (crimi-

nal) leadership,” said Capt. Michael Ranado, battle captain for 31st Military Transition Team, 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division.

“The IP (Iraqi Police) and IA (Iraqi Army) have successfully provided security for the people of the Babil province and continue vigilantly to do so,” he said.

The cache was moved to the Joint Coordination Center in Hillah.

Training pays off



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Dave Eastabrooks, 3rd Brigade, 1st National Police Training Team, assists in packaging weapons found in a cache April 4 in Jabr al Ansari, Iraq. The cache was found after Iraqi Policemen from 3rd Brigade, 1st National Police Division, received information from a detainee.

Gilbert wins MacArthur Leadership Award

SPC. BEN HUTTO
3RD HBC, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER – Capt. Brian Gilbert, the commander of Company D, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, will receive the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership award in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon May 13.

The award is given annually to the top company-grade officers who demonstrate the ideals of duty, honor and service to country. Gilbert, a native of Boise, Idaho, is one of 14 active duty officers who will receive the award.

“I was extremely surprised when I found out I would be receiving the award,” Gilbert said. “I didn’t think I had a chance. It is very humbling to be one of the recipients.”

As surprised as Gilbert is to receive the award, his subordinates are not.

“I think he is very deserving of the award,” said 1st Lt. Daniel Bell, executive officer of Company D. “He is a great commander. He never loses his cool and is very knowledgeable. He is one of the most technically and tactically proficient officers I’ve ever been around.”

Bell, from San Antonio, Texas, credits Gilbert with many of the lessons he has learned during his current deployment.

“He has always been available when I have had questions,” Bell said. “When he went home on leave, I had to try and fill his shoes; ‘try’ being the key word. I never realized how hard he worked until I had to do it. I have the utmost respect for him.”

First Sgt. James Woody, from Portsmouth, Va., has worked side by side with Gilbert since he took over Company D in September.

“When I found out I was coming

to Company D, I was excited,” he said. “Everyone I talked to told me how lucky I was to have him as a commander and they were right. We talk about everything and line up our plans. He is great about giving all his leaders the task and purpose, and letting them make their decisions.”

Woody described how Gilbert directed his company on March 26 in Jisr Diyala, when they were ambushed during a combat patrol.

“He was on the ground with his troops within 15 minutes of them being ambushed,” Woody said. “He was directing five different elements at one time. To listen to it over the radio was amazing. It says something to your troops when their commander is there with them on the ground.”

For six hours, Gilbert and his men fought criminals through the streets of Jisr Diyala. At the end of the engagement, 11 enemy fighters were dead and 24 were detained. Three of Gilbert’s men sustained minor injuries and returned to duty.

“In my opinion, if you have troops in contact, your place as a commander is out there with them,” Gilbert said. “That is really the only way you can assess what is going on.”

Bell said all the Company D Soldiers like and respect Gilbert.

“Everyone loves him,” Bell said. “He has proven to them time and time again that he will make the right decision. He has always been fair when making decisions on rewards and punishments.”

That respect and admiration has translated into performance, said Woody.

“Our Soldiers have remained professional throughout this deployment,” Woody said. “The locals know we are



Spc. Ben Hutto

Capt. Brian Gilbert, commander of Company D, 1-15th Inf. Regt., talks with a local leader in Jisr Diyala, Iraq, March 2. Gilbert has been working with political, tribal and Iraqi Security Force leaders to help stabilize the area and spark economic growth.

operating in Jisr Diyala. We treat people with respect. The Soldiers have carried themselves like the professionals they are at all times when we have gone outside the wire. All of local leaders have noticed that. Capt. Gilbert is constantly complimented by them for that.”

In turn, Gilbert credited his Soldiers’ performance for the award.

“Your men make you who you are as a leader,” he said. “It really isn’t hard to be a company commander when you have Soldiers like we do.”

Gilbert’s commander, Col. Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr., from Prince George’s County, Md., commander of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, congratulated him on winning the award. Grigsby won the same award in 1987.

“He told me he was proud of me,” Gilbert said. “It meant a lot coming from him. As a former winner of the award, it helped set him up for success. I hope I can emulate him and his success.”

THE Dog Face Daily

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7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
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Village of Hope gives Iraqis new perspective

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

FOB KALSU – When an Air Force engineer first stepped foot in Hawr Rajab last December, a former al-Qaeda in Iraq safe haven, the thought that came to mind was a scene from an old western movie.

“Most of the businesses were shuttered and the main road was more comparable to the O.K. Corral,” said Capt. Josh Aldred, a native of Flagstaff, Ariz.

Four months later, AQI was gone and Aldred saw a community flourishing with business and hope.

Aldred was the primary instructor at the Village of Hope vocational school located on the grounds of Patrol Base Stone in Hawr Rajab. He ended his tour in Iraq April 3 and turned the project over to another Air Force captain.

Aldred and his 30-man team of engineer Airmen from the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron had been teaching the Village of Hope students the basics of construction, plumbing, electricity, masonry and well drilling. The overall goal is to teach residents of Hawr Rajab necessary skills to rebuild their war-torn community.

The Airmen forged friendships with most of the 50 current students, all of whom are from Hawr Rajab. When they found out Aldred was returning to Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., they wrote him and his troops a letter of appreciation.

“In the past we had different feelings and a kind of misunderstanding towards the American people,” read the letter, signed by the students. “After being close to you, we found out that we are

almost the same. We both love and care and sacrifice for other people. This removed the fears we had before and now we have become very good friends.”

The letter reinforced what Aldred was already thinking: the Village of Hope experiment is working.

“In my mind, the Village of Hope concept should be used in other locations throughout Iraq,” he said.

Members of the Village of Hope class share the same sentiments as Aldred. They said they now see Americans as people wanting to make Iraq better for the Iraqi people, not as an occupying force. “We will spread all of your nice words ... to keep the good memories in our mind which changed our life and how we felt about Coalition forces,” the letter said.

When the current students graduate, they will join the Iraqi workforce as skilled tradesmen working to improve their community.

“The effects of the Village of Hope include area beautification, new construction, which means more jobs, and tons of litter and rubble removed from the side of the road,” Aldred said.

Aldred added that he and his Airmen along with their Troop A, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division counterparts, who provide security and transportation to the Village of Hope, can take pride in their endeavor. “It feels good to have made a difference, and none of this would have been possible without a team effort from the Army and Air Force.”

As the students prepared to continue their studies with new instructors they wished Aldred and his crew well and

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

WEEKLY QUIZ:

1. How many types of reporting options does a victim have? And what are they?
2. What is an Advocate? (Unit Victim Advocate).
3. What is the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) used for?
4. Every Soldier who is aware of a sexual assault should report the incident within 24, 48, or 72hrs?
5. What regulation covers the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program? (Chapter and/or appendix).

The first person to contact the Equal Opportunity Office on Victory Base Complex with the correct answers will receive a prize.

hoped the Airmen would remember their positive experience working in Hawr Rajab.

Current Village of Hope students are scheduled to graduate in late May or early June. Three more classes are scheduled. When all four classes are complete, 200 Hawr Rajab residents will have graduated from the vocational school.

Safety Thought of the Day

Watercraft Safety Reminders

With the upcoming fielding of the 25' Guardian, here are some safety reminders for personnel that utilize this equipment:

- When using watercraft for missions, Composite Risk Management must be used to identify and mitigate risks.
- Ensure Soldiers are properly trained in watercraft operation.
- Complete a PMCS of the watercraft,

weapons and survival systems.

- Ensure Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) are available and serviceable (can handle weight of Soldier, body armor, and equipment).
- Know emergency drills and procedures.
- Watch out for obstacles in the water: other boats, wildlife and foreign objects.
- Reference: COMDTINST M16114.34, M16794.52A & M10470.10.

Headline Highlights

Cakes banned; 50-50 fair, square; electrocuted rat; python escapes

No happy returns as school bans birthday cake

WELLINGTON (Reuters) – Children in a New Zealand school have been banned from bringing cakes to share on their birthdays, due to new government healthy eating guidelines.

Pupils at Oteha Valley primary school north of Auckland have been told they are allowed to celebrate their birthdays, but the cake must stay at home, the New Zealand Herald newspaper reported.

The Ministry of Education has been on a fat-busting crusade, introducing sweeping guidelines against unhealthy food in New Zealand schools.

Oteha Valley has a large number of pupils born in September and October, and there can be up to four cakes a week in some classes, principal Megan Bowden told the Herald.

It had gotten to the point where parents thought they were required to provide a cake for their child's birthday.

The school has advised parents in a newsletter to stop sending cakes to school from the next term.

A Ministry of Education spokesman told the Herald the government guidelines only applied to food sold on the premises, and schools did not need to monitor food brought in from outside.

Farmer cuts property in two to give to ex-wife

BELGRADE (Reuters) – A Serb farmer used a grinding machine to cut

in half his farm tools and machines to comply with a court ruling that he must share all his property with his ex-wife, local media reported on Thursday.

Branko Zivkov, 76, told Belgrade daily Kurir he had been ready to give his wife Vukadinka her equal share of everything earned during their 45-year marriage, but was furious at being asked to give away half his farming equipment.

Instead, he bought a grinder and cut in two all his tools, including large items such as cattle scales, a harrow and a sowing machine.

"I still haven't decided how to split the cow," he told the newspaper. "She should just say what she wants – the part with the horns or the part with the tail."

Zapped rat causes Stockholm power outage

STOCKHOLM, Sweden – The electrocution of a fat rat in an electric station Saturday caused a three-hour power outage in Stockholm's central train station, halting elevators and escalators.

The early morning outage led to some delays in train traffic, said Jesper Ekenlund, a spokesman for power company Fortum. Nearby hotels and shops also were affected, he said.

"The rat had sneaked into a secondary substation and came into contact with some parts that caused it to short circuit," he said.

"It must have been really big because there's a certain distance between the

parts it touched."

Ekenlund said Fortum will now have to decontaminate the area where the rat met its fate.

7-foot python hitches ride, crawls through Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP) – Commuters in the Philippine capital got a shock when they found an unwelcome passenger on their minibus: a 7-foot-long python.

The discovery Thursday sent passengers running and snarled traffic in the Manila suburb of Quezon City, police said Friday.

The python had wrapped itself around steel suspension bars under a "jeepney," a kind of minibus unique to the Philippines, that had traveled into the capital from a nearby province, traffic police Inspector Erlito Renegin said.

Passengers scampered to safety after the snake crawled out from under the jeepney onto the road during a stop, Renegin told The Associated Press. Other cars tried to avoid hitting it, he said.

Renegin said he worked with traffic officials and bystanders to wrestle the snake into a sack.

Dante Santiago, a snake handler from the government's Wildlife Rescue Center who picked up the python from a police station, said the animal appeared tame. Despite being handled many times, it lunged at him only once, indicating it was familiar with people and could have been a pet that escaped, he said.

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to Saturday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

water

My