

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne



Pvt. Christopher McKenna

First Lt. Ryan Graf, from Hawley, Penn., 3rd Platoon leader, Battery A, 3-320th FA, 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT), and Iraqi Army Soldiers discuss the day's mission in Mahmudiyah.

IA keeps peace in Mahmudiyah, deters criminals

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

CAMP STRIKER – The Iraqi Army commander in Mahmudiyah won't stand for criminal activity in his city.

To that end, Brig. Gen. Ali Jassim Muhammad Hassen Al Frejee, commander of the 25th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, and Lt. Col. William Zemp, commander of 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), worked together recently to make sure that violence seen in Basra wasn't replicated in Mahmudiyah.

Zemp, a native of Hartsville, S.C.,

said one word sums up the IA successes in the area: leadership. The IA leadership at all levels – company, battalion and brigade – was involved in the mission to secure the city.

"As soon as there were indications of violence, a curfew was put into effect," Zemp said. Vehicular traffic was suspended in the city, extra checkpoints were established and 14 additional platoons were deployed after hostilities flared March 28.

"(The criminals) were expecting us to only be defending," Ali said. "That was true the first day." After that, Ali said, his Soldiers started taking offensive measures. He said his troops be-

lieve it is their duty to pursue anyone who breaks the law.

Before the outbreak of violence, Ali said he brought in all the battalion commanders under his charge and assigned a neighborhood to each as their respective areas of operation. He said this hampered the enemy's ability to function.

"We controlled with good cooperation between the Iraqi and Coalition forces," Ali said. "I don't think they will try these things again in this sector."

Zemp agreed his IA counterparts did an outstanding job.

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Maderiyah secondary school opens its doors

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

FOB KALSU – Community leaders welcomed representatives from the Ministry of Education and Coalition forces for the opening of the Ben Saad Maath Secondary School in Maderiyah April 2.

Al Zerqa School, a primary school recently reconstructed by Coalition forces, was being used as temporary location for the secondary school. With the completion of the new building, adolescent students now have a facility of their own.

“The opening of this school is a great help for the kids of this area,” said Atin Achani, a supervisor specialist in public education for Baghdad.

Achani said the Ministry of Education is working to increase teachers’ salaries and build more schools throughout Iraq.

“The Ben Saad Maath School will give many secondary-aged students throughout the area the opportunity to receive a secondary education for the first time,” said Capt. Richard Aaron, commander of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Aaron, a native of Middleboro, Mass., and Soldiers of his battery are responsible for maintaining security in the area and assisting local residents in re-establishing ties with the Government of Iraq.

“When I ask the locals throughout the area what their top essential need



Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Representatives from the Ministry of Education ceremonially open the Ben Saad Maath Secondary School in Maderiyah. The school was built with funds from Coalition forces but will be staffed by teachers from the MoE.

“With out a doubt this project proves that the MoE is positively impacting children in the area.”

– Capt. Richard Aaron
1-9th FA, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

is, what is the one thing we could help them fix most of the time they simply reply, ‘fix our schools and help our children receive a good education,’” Aaron said. “The construction of the

new secondary school will allow more students to attend the primary school located next door.”

Though Coalition funds helped build the Ben Saad Maath School, MoE work will keep the school’s teachers paid and the facilities functional.

“With out a doubt this project proves that the MoE is positively impacting children in the area,” Aaron said.

Once the ribbon-cutting ceremony was complete, 150 students and 18 teachers viewed the new classrooms, furniture and supplies prior to starting the first day of class.

THE Dog Face Daily

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302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

PEACE

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"The IA met its enemy and then crushed it; they defeated the special groups ... in Mahmudiyah," he said. "They did it in such a way that they took into consideration the civilian population and political ramifications and consequences of their actions. In a nutshell, they did it right."

Rakkasan Soldiers assisted their IA partners with troop leading, logistics, artillery for terrain denials and aviation support. A platoon from 3-320th FA worked alongside each of the IA security platoons in all major engagements.

"They're definitely pretty squared away," said Pvt. Khristopher Wallace, Battery A, 3-320th FA, of the IA troops. "We're moving, typically, behind them ... pretty much in a support role."

"They're tactically sound and keeping everything pretty simple," the Yorkville, Ill., native added. "It's just like working with another one of our units – very cohesive."

Cooperation between the battalions and Coalition troops was key to success, according to Ali.

"Things are tense but stable now," Zemp said. "The IA is clearly in control of the city as far as Mahmudiyah is concerned and the local government is still able to function."

The vehicle curfew is currently in place at night but is lifted during daylight hours, allowing local citizens to run errands, go to work and receive medical care when necessary.

"I think the outcome defines his leadership," Zemp said. "Swift action, decisive and the ability to interact with the local population based on intelligence, not rumors."

Tax Tips for Soldiers – 2008

With April 15 approaching and many Soldiers set to redeploy, let's look at some common tax provisions that may affect you and your family.

- **Filing Extension.** Deployed Soldiers receive an automatic 180 day extension to file their 2007 federal income tax return from the date they redeploy.

- **Rebate.** This year's rebate entitles those with earned income for 2007 to a cash payment based on their filing status. Those who file single may receive up to \$600, while joint filers may receive up to \$1200. To receive your rebate you must file your 2007 federal return.

- **Documents.** Good records are the key to an accurate return. These records include your W2s, 1098s, 1099s, and all other IRS forms. Take all these documents to your preparer and then retain them with a copy of your tax return for at least five years.

- **IRA Contributions.** The deadline for making Tax Year 2007 IRA contributions is 15 April 2008. Contributions for 2007 cannot exceed \$4,000. Those who have contributed and incurred tax liability for 2007 may also be entitled to the Retirement Savings Credit.

- **Student Loan Repayment.** Soldiers who received student loan repayments during 2007 are entitled to exclude 1/12 of the total repayment for each month they



Web Image

served in a combat zone. Check your W2 to make sure it accurately reflects this entitlement. If not, visit your S1 shop and initiate a pay inquiry to get a corrected W2.

- **Education Expenses.** If you paid qualified post-secondary education expenses (generally limited to tuition) out of your own pocket you may be entitled to either the Hope or Lifetime Learning Credit.

- **Married Filing Separate.** Married filing separately should generally be avoided if possible. Separate filers are not eligible for many credits and deductions. Soldiers who file returns in community property states (such as California or Idaho) and elect to file married filing separately must generally include their spouse's income on their return. Ask your tax adviser if this impacts you.

- **Interest.** As with all other regular interest income, Savings Deposit Program (SDP) interest must be reported as taxable interest.

Safety Thought of the Day

First Aid

- Inspect Improved First Aid Kit (IFAK) before combat patrols.
- NSN 6515-01-521-7976 Tourniquet, Combat Application 1.
- NSN 6510-01-492-2275 Bandage Kit, Elastic 1.
- NSN 6510-01-503-2117 Bandage Gauze 4-1/2" 100's package.
- NSN 6510-01-00-926-8883 Adhesive Tape Surg 2" 6's roll.
- NSN 6510-01-180-0467 Airway, Nasopharyngeal, 28Fr, 12s 1.
- NSN 6510-01-519-9161 Glove, Patient Exam

100's package (4).

- NSN 6545-01-531-3147 Insert, IFAK (folding panels, cord attached).
- Ensure all Soldiers receive periodic first aid refresher training.
- Ensure CLS bags and Warrior Aid and Litter Kits are restocked before and after each mission to ensure contents are available and in good condition.
- CLS bags and Warrior Aid and Litter Kits should be easily accessible and each person on patrol should know its location.

Headline Highlights

Jobless robber; stunt driving; couple separated; unusual weapon

Name on job application leads to robber's arrest

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — Police say they got a major clue to the identity of a suspect in the armed robbery of a convenience store — his job application.

Investigators in Athens, Ga., say Demetrius Robinson filled out the application to kill time while waiting for the Golden Pantry store to empty of customers.

Authorities say it was Robinson who then produced a knife and held up the store last week.

The job application gave Robinson's name and an uncle's phone number, but a phony address.

Police arrested the 28-year-old man Saturday on armed robbery charges.

Driver climbs on roof of van, crashes

READING, Pa. (AP) — A Reading man whose minivan crashed after he climbed on its roof while driving about 55 miles per hour is in fair condition this weekend.

Police in West Reading say the 38-year-old man later stripped naked and led them on a chase along the highway.

Authorities are not identifying the man, who is not charged.

He remains in a Reading hospital recovering from what witnesses call a deep gash in his side.

Police say they used Taser jolts and pepper spray during the chase Friday

but only subdued the man when they tackled him.

Canada-US border separates senior center couple

PROVO, Utah (AP) — A 96-year-old man who outlived two wives is separated from his third — by immigration problems.

Canadian Doreen Buttery, 73, was a temporary visitor when she met Leonard "Woody" Woodward at a senior center in Provo. They wed this year and honeymooned in Alberta — which gave Buttery the chance to sell her house and prepare to move to Provo permanently.

But she hadn't filled out the paperwork to immigrate and was stuck at the border as her husband took the bus back to Provo.

"We tried to provide her as much guidance as we could," said Larry Overcast, port director at the Customs and Border Protection entry point in Sweetgrass, Mont.

Woodward and a neighbor who has a law degree are trying to put together the paperwork to bring Doreen back. But it's a complicated process that takes time.

"It's on a merry-go-round," Woodward said.

Buttery will also have to go through an interview, so U.S. officials can determine the marriage is legitimate and not just an attempt to bypass immigration rules.

Woodward said can still get by on his

own, but he doesn't like it.

"I need her home, bad," he said.

Man used hedgehog as weapon on teenage boy

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — A New Zealand man has been accused of assault with prickly weapon — a hedgehog.

Police allege that William Singalargh picked up the hedgehog and threw it several yards to hit a 15-year-old boy in the North Island east coast town of Whakatane on Feb. 9.

"It hit the victim in the leg, causing a large, red welt and several puncture marks," police Senior Sgt. Bruce Jenkins said Monday. The teen did not need medical treatment, he added.

The Herald on Sunday newspaper reported that it was not known whether the hedgehog was dead or alive at the time of the attack, but that it was dead when collected as evidence.

Jenkins said Singalargh, 27, was arrested shortly after the incident on a charge of assault with a weapon. He is expected to appear in court again on April 17.

His lawyer, Rebecca Plunket, said Singalargh intends to plead innocent. The maximum penalty for the charge is five years in prison.

While using a hedgehog as a weapon in an assault is uncommon, Jenkins said, "People often get charged with assault for throwing things at other people."

Sudoku

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

shelter

mel-jeh