

## Operations in Mahmudiyah



Pvt. Christopher McKenna

Staff Sgt. Charles Moore, a psychological operations sergeant with 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), leads Iraqi Army Soldiers through the town of al Rashid, Iraq, during operations.

## New rule of law expert meets Mada'in judges

**SPC. BEN HUTTO**  
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER – Col. Doug House, a military lawyer assigned to the Baghdad-8 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, attached to the 3rd

Heavy Brigade Combat Team, met with three judges at the courthouse in Jisr Diyala to gauge their needs April 8.

Judge Razaq Jabbar Alwan, chief investigative judge of the qada, welcomed House.

"I am glad that you are here and we

have the opportunity to meet you," Alwan said. "It is because of people like you that we are all sitting here in my office today. Your country has helped my country a great deal."

**See JUDGE, page 3**

# GT Improvement course improves Soldiers' chances for success

SPC. EMILY J. WILSONCROFT  
MND-C PAO

CAMP VICTORY — There comes a time in every Soldier's military career when he takes a step back and examines his options for the future — and sometimes, creates new options.

That's why the Camp Victory education center offers the GT Improvement course.

A Soldier's General Technical score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test is the key to his future success in the military. Those who score a 110 or higher qualify for a wider variety of military occupational specialties than those who score below 110.

"This course allows Soldiers who don't want to stay in the Army in their current job to stay in and change jobs," said Staff Sgt. Jimmy Labbas, a GT Improvement course instructor with Headquarters Company, 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. "It's especially good for NCOs, who need at least a 110 to progress in their career."

The course, which is attended monthly by up to 96 students, covers arithmetic, word knowledge and paragraph composition — the subjects which determine the GT score in the ASVAB.

"Throughout the course, we give three tests — a placement test, a mid-term and a final exam," said Labbas, a native of Schererville, Ind. "That way

*"This course allows Soldiers who don't want to stay in the Army in their current job to stay in and change jobs."*

— Staff Sgt. Jimmy Labbas  
GT Improvement course instructor

we can track the Soldiers' progress."

He said that while not everyone in the class is able to bring their score up to 110, most manage to raise it significantly.

"Usually students will have about a 15-point raise," he said. "About 20 out of 48 raise their score to a 110."

Labbas said more than 600 students have been tested in the facility to date, with Soldiers attending from all over the Iraq theater.

"I've got people coming here from Anaconda, from Taji, from (Camp) Striker," he said. "There's a long list of people who want to attend."

The overall success rate of the class, he said, was "very high."

"Everyone who comes in takes it very seriously," Labbas said. "They feel that they need this course."

He added that he and the other instructors are volunteers.

"I provide all the materials," he said, "but everybody puts a hand in to help these Soldiers with their careers."

## Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Dedication ceremony



*Please join the 3rd Infantry Division in the physical fitness center dedication ceremony in honor of Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, the 3rd Inf. Div.'s 51st Medal of Honor recipient. The ceremony will take place today at the VBC Main Gym at 1030 a.m.*

## THE Dog Face Daily

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3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Abn. Division (Assault)

4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division

214th Fires Brigade

7th Sustainment Brigade

720th Military Police Battalion

302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



# JUDGE: Rule of law chief helps judges return RoL to area

From page 1

The current judicial expert for the 3rd HBCT believes House, a native of Little Rock, Ark., will be able to work with the judges to facilitate their permanent return to the courthouse in Salman Pak.

"I thought Col. House made a good impression on the judges," said Spc. Ryan Burkholder, a native of Houston. "After an hour of discussion, he was able to work through some issues."

Before joining the Army to become a cavalry scout, Burkholder was a practicing attorney in Texas. During the current deployment, he was assigned to the 3rd HBCT's staff and appointed as rule of law chief for the brigade, despite being a lower-enlisted Soldier. Over the past year, Burkholder has worked with judges in the Mada'in Qada and Baghdad to help return rule of law to the area.

"He has done his job quietly and well," said Maj. James Carlisle, from West Palm Beach, Fla., Burkholder's supervisor. "He represents the stellar caliber of young men and women in the Army that makes it the best army in the world."

Burkholder was proud of the role he played in bringing the judicial branch back to the qada and said House would be the perfect person to replace him.



Spc. Ben Hutto

Col. Doug House, from Little Rock, Ark., a military lawyer with the Baghdad-8 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, reviews documents with Judge Bassem Mohammed Rushdi, a civil judge in the Mada'in Qada, at the courthouse in Jisr Diyala, Iraq, April 8.

"We have seen a significant decrease in violent crimes since the judges have come back," Burkholder said. "Before, when someone was arrested, there was no transparency. People were arrested and they would disappear. Some would come back and some wouldn't, but people couldn't see rule of law in action."

"People now know that when they do things wrong here, they will have to sit before the judge," he said. "I believe that is deterring a lot of crimes from happening."

The 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, is from Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.

## Safety Thought of the Day Souvenir Reminders

*General Order No. 1 prohibits the taking and retaining of War Trophies/Souvenirs, to include:*

- Weapons/Weapons systems.
- Firearms.
- Ammunition.
- Cartridge casing (brass).
- Explosives of any type!
- Knives.
- Keeping Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) as souvenirs poses a potential explosive Hazard!
- UXO have shown no prejudice in selecting victims, they are design to blow up!
- If you are unsure how to dispose of your souvenirs, place them in an amnesty box or contact EOD.



File photo

## Headline Highlights

# Cocktail bill goes down drain; 'muzzle' awards; fake pictures

## Senate nixes state cocktail due to alcoholism fear

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) – A proposal to honor the New Orleans cocktail known as the Sazerac has gone down the drain.

The Louisiana Senate on Tuesday rejected legislation that would have made the whiskey-based beverage the official state cocktail.

The bill's author, Sen. Ed Murray, noted that the drink was created in his hometown and has become world famous. But Sen. Buddy Shaw and others said it was inappropriate to honor an alcoholic beverage.

"Is there a possibility that we could be encouraging folks, who were not intending to drink, that it would be acceptable and they could become an alcoholic?" Shaw asked.

"No," Murray replied.

Three other senators who spoke in opposition said the passing the bill would "send the wrong message" about the state.

## Free speech center makes annual "muzzle" awards

PHILADELPHIA (Reuters) – U.S. free-speech advocates on Tuesday gave their annual "muzzle" awards to violators including police who charged a woman for swearing at her overflowing toilet, and a motor vehicles department that deemed a "GETOSAMA" license plate offensive.

The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression said police in Scranton, Pennsylvania had no right to issue a disorderly conduct citation to Dawn Herb, who "let loose a tirade of foul language" directed at her toilet. A neighbor who was an off-duty police officer made a complaint.

The charge was dismissed by a judge who concluded that Herb's words, though "offensive, vulgar and imprudent" to some, were nonetheless protected under the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech, the Jefferson center said.

The center also gave an award to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles after it demanded the return of the plates reading "GETOSAMA" that had been issued to a retired police officer who wanted to express his desire to capture Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the September 11 attacks.

The DMV argued they could be considered "lewd, lascivious, derogatory to a particular ethnic group, or patently offensive." It later offered to let him keep them to settle a lawsuit claiming violation of his First Amendment rights.

The center, linked to the University of Virginia, reserved special scorn for the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a press conference at which agency staffers posing as reporters pitched soft questions to officials in an effort to show FEMA had done well in tackling California wildfires.

"FEMA's incredible and unique at-

tempt to substitute false or fabricated speech for free speech surely merits a 2008 Jefferson muzzle," the center said.

## Watch the birdy: Cameraman fired for fake pigeon

BELJING (Reuters) – A Chinese photographer has apologized for his "bad behavior" forging an award-winning picture of pigeons, Xinhua news agency said on Monday.

Zhang Liang, a former photographer for the Harbin Daily newspaper, admitted that he added a pigeon to a photo, using Photoshop software, which showed pigeons receiving bird flu vaccine shots from medical workers.

The photo won the top prize in the first China International Press Photo Contest, held by the Photojournalist Society of China in 2005.

"I would like to apologize to the public," Zhang, who was dismissed from Harbin Daily four days ago, was quoted as saying.

He copied the pigeon in the top right corner of his photo and pasted it in the top left corner.

"I did it to make the photo perfect," Zhang was quoted as saying.

In February this year, an award-winning photographer, Liu Weiqiang, admitted he faked a photo showing more than 20 Tibetan antelopes roaming peacefully under a railway bridge along the Qinghai-Tibet railway where a train was roaring past.

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

**Solution to yesterday's puzzle:**

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

## ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

money

floss