Serving Task Force Marne _____

MND-C launches major capacity-building operation

From clean water to cell phone towers, Coalition to help Iragis make sweeping improvements

SGT. MICHAEL CONNORS MND-C PAO

CAMP VICTORY Multi-National Division – Center kicked off the main phase of its first major operation devoted primarily to capacity building expanding governance, economics and infrastructure - April 15 in communities south of Baghdad in the Baghdad Province.

Operation Marne Piledriver is taking place in the area of operations of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). While the focus of the operation is on capacity building, Iraqi Security Forces will simultaneously target remaining insurgent pockets with the help of Coalition forces.

Patrol Base Yates, which will house Iraqi and Coalition forces, is currently under construction as a base of operations to bring the fight to the insurgent holdouts. It is named in honor of Cpl. Nyle Yates III, who died in combat in Bayji, Iraq, in 2006 while serving in Company B, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT).

"Marne Piledriver will not only display Iraqi Security Forces-led operations, but also the establishment of a Joint Security Station at Yusifiyah, the development of Iraqi-run radio stations, the injection of funding by the Government of Iraq to refurbish two major water treatment plants and the infusion of funds and expertise into the poultry and agricultural industries,' said Col. Dominic J. Caraccilo, commander of 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT).

Providing training to Government of Iraq officials in the area is another key component of the operation. They will learn how to navigate a democratic, free-market economy after decades of a state-run system under Saddam Hussein. The U.S. Agency for International



Sgt. Michael Connors

Pfc. Kristen George, tactical assault command, HHC, 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT), provides security for key leaders visiting Yusifiyah. Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of MND-C, was in Yusifiyah to discuss plans for Operation Marne Piledriver, the division's first major operation devoted primarily to capacity building.

Development is providing the training.

Maj. T.J. Johnson, one of the main MND-C planners of Marne Piledriver, emphasized the synergy created from the U.S. military and USAID working together.

"It's a great way of illustrating how our government and our military have to work hand in hand," he said. "We have to identify what's important together so that we can go ahead and find a way forward."

Governance, however, will go bevond the classroom during Marne Piledriver. Local GoI officials will lead the establishment of a major water pipeline into Mahmudiyah, which has seen a shortage in potable water, said Johnson. The contract will be put out to bid in the Iraqi economy, with local leaders overseeing the process and construction.

"If you can bring fresh water into Mahmudiyah – potable water – you eliminate sanitation problems," Johnson said. "That would be a huge win for the Government of Iraq because then everybody in Mahmudiyah is going to know, 'Hey, the government made this thing happen."

Another major project is the revitalization of the poultry industry. Poultry farms in the area will receive 35,000 eggs. The chickens will be raised and processed for consumption. It is estimated that poultry industry revitaliza-

National Police seize cache southeast of Baghdad

Maj. Joe Sowers 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

FOB HAMMER – Policemen from the 3rd Brigade, 1st National Police Division seized a large weapons cache southeast of Baghdad, April 13.

The 3/1 NP Brigade works in partnership with the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, in the city of Jisr Diyala, southeast of Baghdad across the Diyala River.

Lt. Col. John Kolasheski, from Louden, Tenn., commander of 3-1st Cav. Regt., said the NPs received a tip from a local citizen that munitions were being transported through the area. Policemen quickly identified an abandoned truck stacked with hay that matched the description from the informant. Soldiers from Troop C, 3-1st Cav. Regt. moved to the scene to help secure the munitions and facilitate proper disposal.

The cache consisted of 541 anti-tank mines, 100 rocket fuses, 29 120 mm mortars, seven 107 mm rockets and five rocket-propelled grenades. Explosive ordnance disposal Soldiers determined the cache was too big to safely dispose of on site. Troop C Soldiers subsequently secured the cache and moved the munitions to Combat Outpost Cashe nearby.

"We believe the cache was moved up the al-Kut highway to be broken down into smaller packages for movement into Baghdad," Kolasheski said.

Kolasheski said pressuring extremist networks and partnering closely with the Iraqi Security Forces contributed to local residents forwarding the information that led to the munitions seizure.

"We believe the pressure we've put



Courtesy photo

APoliceman from the 3/1 NP Brigade unloads a 107 mm rocket from a truck seized southeast of Baghdad.

on Shia extremists in the Village 10 and Besmaya region (communities southeast of Baghdad) facilitated the tip coming to the NP," Kolasheski said. "We've been working our partnership with the 3-1 National Police since July of 2007. We believe that setting that as a priority early on is bearing fruit."

Kolasheski said that both the confidence of the NPs and the trust of local citizens in the brigade have increased during the past year.

When violence increased in Jisr Diyala in late March, Kolasheski said intelligence tips to the NPs from both Sunni and Shia citizens "went through the roof." According to Kolasheski, Sons of Iraq groups volunteered to assist the NP brigade in clearing criminals from the area during the week-long period of increased violence.

Within the last week, the 3/1 NP Brigade detained one brigade-level and one squadron-level high value individuals and assisted the 3-1st Cav. Regt. in the detention of a Multi-National Division - Center HVI. All three are sus-

pected of murder and attacks against ISF and Coalition forces.

"Success breeds success, and in this case, they (the NPs) have increased confidence and leaders that care," Kolasheski said. "What we wanted to do was build trust in the Shia and Sunni communities, so local residents see the National Police as a national force and not an instrument of sectarian violence."

The 3-1st Cav. Regt. is assigned to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed to Iraq since March 2007.

BUILD

From previous page

tion alone will create 1,000 jobs, said Johnson.

Marne Piledriver is a comprehensive operation spanning several months. Other improvements include improving the Yusifiyah market; renovating fish farms; and erecting cell phone towers and billboards.

When all is said and done, Johnson hopes this operation will serve as a blueprint for what's possible in Iraq moving forward.

"This is really a test-bed for how successful capacity-building operations can be," he said. "After spending a lot of the tour focused on lethal operations, the conditions are such that we can really begin to say, 'OK what do the people need that we can impact in a real positive manner."

THE

Dog Face Daily

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Hypnotist puts aviators under his spell

PFC. MONICA K. SMITH 3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP STRIKER – Soldiers took following orders to a new level when they subjected themselves to the whims of a hypnotist April 9 at the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade flight line.

The show was the last of a six-show tour in Iraq for professional hypnotist Chuck Milligan.

"I'm different from a magician or comedian in that I'm just the director showcasing the Soldiers who are actually participating in the show," said Milligan, from San Diego, Calif.

Milligan began his show with 17 Soldiers, some who climbed over chairs for the opportunity to be a member of the cast. The volunteers had never been hypnotized and many had never seen a hypnotist perform.

"I've never been to (a hypnotist show) and I wanted to try it out," said Sgt. Christopher Martin, Company A, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, 3rd CAB, 3rd Infantry Division.

Martin, from Baltimore, Md., not only attended the show but also volunteered to be placed under hypnosis. After waking, he says he remembers only brief parts of the experience.

"It comes in and out," said Martin of his memory. "But it was good. I am really relaxed. It got me away from Iraq for a little bit."

First Sgt. Del Williams, Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd



Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Professional hypnotist Chuck Milligan hypnotizes Soldiers during a show at the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade flight line dining facility, Baghdad.

CAB, 3rd Inf. Div., described the show as the "bomb-diggity" and was glad the event was held at the 3rd CAB flight line dining facility.

"The dining facility is a good venue for entertainment for Soldiers who work at the flight line," Williams said. "All of us filter through the DFAC and I know if he did a show later today or tomorrow, just from word-of-mouth it would spread, and it would be standing room only."

Milligan, a former Marine sniper, has worked as a hypnotist for 21 years, 18 of which he has performed for Soldiers

"Started as a hobby and people like it so much I quit my job and started doing this fulltime," Milligan said. "It's taken me around the world. I've spent 17 Christmases with military families while doing a show."

Milligan has also done college tours and shows for Carnival cruise line. This was Milligan's first time performing in Iraq, which he says went very well.

"My favorite part is the laughter, the cheers, the smiles – to see them having fun, that's the best part," Milligan said. "It doesn't get better than that."

Safety Thought of the Day

PPE Good News Story

- On April 10, 4-10 MTN was conducting dismounted operations when a three man element encountered an IED. A two to four pound IED detonated approx. 10 ft. from the Soldiers. Two Soldiers were injured in the blast. This photo shows how the Oakley safety glasses saved the left eye of one of the Soldiers.
- Remember:
- The Authorized Protective Eyewear List (APEL) dated 22 OCT 07 has expanded to offer more choices to Soldiers as well as provide ballistic and ultraviolet protection. This list can be found on the TF Marne website in the Safety Section under PPE.
- For laser protection, Soldiers should continue to use Special Protective Eyewear, Cylindrical System (SPECS), Ballistic Laser Protective Spectacles (BLPS), or Sun, Wind and Dust Goggles (SWDG) at this time.
 - It is advisable to wear the protective eyewear

whenever outside to protect against the sun, sand, and other debris.

• Only clear and gray sunglass lenses are authorized for commercial items.



File photo

Headline Highlights

Largest barbecue record broken; new meaning for classic rock

Uruguay hosts biggest BBQ, grills 12 tons of beef

MONTEVIDEO (Reuters) - More than a thousand barbecue fanatics in Uruguay grilled up 12 metric tonnes (26,400 lbs) of beef on Sunday, setting a new Guinness world record while promoting the country's succulent top export.

Army personnel set up a grill nearly 1 mile long and firefighters lit six tonnes of charcoal to kick off the gargantuan cookout.

Some 1,250 people grilled the beef and about 20,000 spectators cried with joy when a Guinness judge confirmed the barbecue record had been broken.

"I'm very proud to be Uruguayan. We have the best beef and now we have the world's biggest barbecue," said one of the volunteer cooks, sporting an apron and chef's hat.

The South American country bested a Mexican grilling record from 2006 by a resounding 4 tonnes.

The barbecue was organized by the National Meats Institute, or INAC in Spanish, which tracks beef sales abroad.

Beef exports raked in \$817 million last year for Uruguay, a laid-back country of some 3.2 million people squeezed between larger neighbors Argentina and Brazil, also major cattle producers.

"Uruguay is very small, it's not known for other events so we have to use these kinds of gimmicks so people find out where Uruguay is and what it has to offer," said INAC's vice president, Fernando Perez Abella.

Old rockers give new meaning to life and lyrics

NEW YORK (Reuters) – The unlikely image of a 92-year-old war bride screaming The Clash's "Should I Stay or Should I Go" into a microphone backed by an elderly chorus has already captivated live audiences around the world.

Now the film version is set to do the same.

"Young at Heart" documents the group of U.S. senior citizens belting out songs by Sonic Youth through to James Brown. The small-town act has been running for some 25 years but international fame is now at hand.

"A monster has been created," film-maker Stephen Walker joked in an interview about the film's rise.

It started as a 2006 British television documentary and became an audience favourite at the Los Angeles and Sundance film festivals in 2007 and 2008.

The opening sequence showing Eileen Hall, then 92, singing the 1982 hit from punk-rock group The Clash provided the inspiration for Walker when he first saw the group onstage in London in 2005.

"I was totally blown away," Walker said. "It was an amazing way to look at this song afresh. It becomes a song about love and death and not about relationships." The film opens across the United States this week and, after scoring distribution deals, will soon open in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Japan and Australia.

AGING OUTCRY

Besides giving new meaning to lyrics from popular hits, the film is comedic and poignant as it explores friendship, old age and death.

It also addresses a society fed up with a "youth-obsessed and celebrity culture," Walker said.

"People are getting something extraordinary from this," Walker said about the standing ovations at preview screenings in the United States. "Somehow a nerve is being touched here."

Bob Cilman, the group's musical director for the past 25 years, said the popularity showed that audiences wanted to see more elderly people in the public spotlight, on stage or in film.

"Whether it is Australia, France or America, everybody is obsessed with youth and we fly in the face of that," said Cilman, 54. "People applaud it because (youth culture) is not what people want but it is what people are spoon-fed."

Stan Goldman, 78, shown in the film singing a duet of James Brown's "I Feel Good," told Reuters the group did not seek rock star status.

"In our wildest imaginations we never anticipated this," he said.

Pat Linderme, 77, said the goal was simple – to sing and be happy.

"You get so caught up in your singing you forget your pain," she said.

S U d O k

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8		1			2	5	6	
6	7		8			1		2
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5		2						7
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				6	7			

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Short

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY

when?

esh weh-ket?