



Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis

Soldiers with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, attached to 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery, 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., secure the area outside a school, which was used as a makeshift clinic during a medical engagement in Abu Amer, a small village in the Wasit province of Iraq. Humanitarian aid is provided to Iraqis who are returning to their homes.

## Iraqis displaced from homes now returning in droves

MND-C PAO

BAGHDAD — With security improving, local economies flourishing and community reconstruction underway, Iraqis who once fled their South Baghdad homes in fear are now returning to the villages they deserted.

This is a good sign, said Maj. Mark Bailey, the officer in charge of the Multi-National Division – Center governance cell.

“Once people are convinced that security is good in their area, they come back,” said Bailey, who is with 401st

Civil Affairs Battalion, attached to 3rd Infantry Division. “If they own a business, they re-open their business, which helps the economy.”

Out of the approximate 18,700 Iraqis who left their homes, it is estimated that 10,450 have returned, according to MND-C records.

Humanitarian aid provided by MND-C, the United Nations and the Iraqi government has been one method of reintegrating the newly returned citizens, Bailey said.

“The CA Battalion (supply section) provides humanitarian assistance pack-

ages to the (MND-C) brigade combat teams, and they hand those out where they’re needed,” he said. “It’s also a good way to gain people’s trust.”

Units in 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division have seen a steady influx of returning Iraqis, and have conducted operations to ensure the area is safe for their return.

Operation Varsity II, one such effort, resulted in the removal of dozens of al-Qaeda in Iraq from an area containing 19 previously deserted homes.

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# Mahmudiyah Soccer Stadium opens with tourney

PVT. CHRISTOPHER McKENNA  
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

FOB MAHMUDIYAH – The Mahmudiyah Soccer Stadium officially opened April 20 with a 24-team, double-elimination tournament sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

This was the first in a series of three tournaments scheduled over the next four months. Security for each event will be provided by the 25th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division.

“Many people are excited about both the tournament and the stadium,” said Garbi Abbas, the Mahmudiyah Qada Council sports and youth director. “These games are a place for children and adults alike to enjoy the game of soccer.”

The stadium now has three levels of concrete bleachers, fencing around the field and a drainage system connected to sewer pipe lines, allowing the field to properly drain after a rainfall.

“This tournament is a time for people who are interested in sports to come out and celebrate,” Abbas said. “It’s been a long time since the area was safe enough for something like this to happen.”

Rakkasan Soldiers are looking on from the outside, allowing the events to take place without Coalition presence.

“The security in the area has increased drastically since we have arrived,” said Lt. Col. William Zemp, commander 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). “This tournament can occur



Pvt. Christopher McKenna

One of the teams in the Mahmudiyah Soccer Tournament warms up at the new stadium prior to the opening game April 20.

because of the cohesiveness between the Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and Sons of Iraq working together to ensure a safe environment in Mahmudiyah.”

	<b>ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!!</b> <i>Days of Remembrance</i>	
<p><b>WHO:</b> MNC-I Equal Opportunity Office</p> <p><b>WHAT:</b> Days of Remembrance Observance</p> <p><b>WHERE:</b> Al Faw Palace</p> <p><b>WHEN:</b> Fri, 02 May 08, From 1000 - 1530</p> <p><b>WHY:</b> Kristallnacht was initiated as a punishment to Jews for the murder of Ernst Von Roth, a German Embassy official in Paris.</p>	<p>Come visit the Holocaust Display May 2, 2008 1000-1500</p> <p>Dedication Ceremony at 1400 Al Faw Palace Ballroom Hosted by 18th MP BDE</p> <p><b>Remembering Kristallnacht 1938 "Night of the Broken Glass"</b></p>  <p><b>ALL MND-C SOLDIERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND</b></p>	<p><b>Sequence of Events:</b></p> <p>1000 – Museum Displays, Eternal Flame lighting ceremony.</p> <p>1345-1530 Formal Program</p> <p><b>ALL MND-C SOLDIERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND</b></p> <p><b>Why do we cast back our minds to all this today?</b></p> <p>Not in order to dissociate ourselves from our own history and not in order to point our finger at others who had become guilty... We commemorate in order to learn how people ought to behave toward each other and how they ought not to behave.</p>

## THE Dog Face Daily

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Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles

Georgian Cpl. Vitali Jioshvili searches the trunk of a vehicle during TCP operations in Alib Diar near al-Hayy, Iraq.

## TCPs disrupt enemy movement in Wasit

**SGT. 1ST CLASS STACY NILES**  
214TH FB

FOB DELTA – Coalition forces have stepped up operations to disrupt enemy movement through Wasit Province in the wake of recent violence.

The 1st Georgian Infantry Brigade's primary mission is to man checkpoints to disrupt the flow of accelerants into Baghdad through Wasit. The brigade has expanded their operations to include traffic control points (TCPs) at random locations throughout the

province.

The purpose of the TCPs is to disrupt enemy movement and increase operations to confuse the enemy, said Lt. Col. Archil Omiadze, the 1st GB operations officer.

The TCPs will allow the Georgian soldiers to familiarize themselves with the area and increase their situational awareness, said Omiadze, adding the TCPs have not yielded any contraband yet.

About 2,000 Georgian soldiers are deployed to FOB Delta.

## HOME: Iraqis now returning to South Baghdad homes

**From Page 1**

Soldiers also helped rebuild and refurbish local buildings, and set up health clinics and hygiene classes in some villages to better educate Iraqis on how to take care of themselves. Leadership from 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment has also held various meetings with local residents to hear their concerns.

Bailey said the returning families usually still have relatives or business opportunities in the villages they come back to, which helps progress.

"They have ties with the local community," he said. "They have pride in the area. And if they believe it's safer, and then they tell their families, that's when things start to improve."

As of April 15, displaced Iraqis from the areas of Yusifiyah, Khidr, Janabi Village, Radwanayah, Qarghouli Village, Owsat Village, Rasheed, Mushada Village, Mahmudiyah and Latafiyah have made their way back home.

*Note: Information for this article was compiled with the help of the 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. public affairs office.*

## Safety Thought of the Day

### Burn Barrel Safety Reminders

- Obtain a burn permit from the local fire department.
- Always have a serviceable fire extinguisher, pioneer tools and water containers easily accessible.
- Use a nonflammable stick to stir ashes and use a spark arrestor screen.
- Place burn barrel in an approved enclosure 50 ft. away from all structures.
- Never burn during high winds.
- Never use burn barrels for anything but burning paper. Household trash may release potentially toxic pollutants such as benzene, dioxin and chlorine.
- Never leave a burn barrel unattended while in use; Ensure the fire is totally extinguished before departing the site.
- Use gloves and wear eye protection.
- For additional information check the local Fire Prevention Plan in their Safety SOP.



File photo

## Headline Highlights

# Royal landing in yard; high fashion for Kitty; lasers banned

## Prince William lands copter in girlfriend's garden

LONDON (Reuters) – Prince William landed a Royal Air Force helicopter in the garden of his girlfriend Kate Middleton's family home but the Defence Ministry defended his actions, saying he achieved essential training objectives.

The News of the World reported on Sunday that 25-year-old William, second in line to the British throne, asked Middleton's parents' permission to land at their home in Berkshire, southern England, because of a shortage of landing slots in the neighboring county Hampshire.

Aviation analyst and RAF-trained pilot Jon Lake told the weekly paper the April 3 flight was "ridiculous and inappropriate," but the ministry said the two-hour training mission was fully authorized as part of William's four-month RAF attachment.

"Battlefield helicopter crews routinely practice landing in fields and confined spaces away from their airfields as a vital part of their training for operations," it said in a statement.

"These highly honed skills are used daily in conflict zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan."

The ministry said helicopter bases continually sought permission from landowners to use their fields and there were only two fields permanently available in Hampshire.

"Opportunities to use alternatives

are therefore regularly seized. The aircraft landed in the field, after taking all necessary safety precautions, and was on the ground for 20 seconds.

"No one got on or off the aircraft. This was very much a routine training sortie that achieved essential training objectives."

William, the fourth successive generation of the monarchy to become an RAF pilot, received his Royal Air Force wings from his father Prince Charles on April 11 in a ceremony watched by Middleton.

## Hello Kitty gets high fashion makeover

TOKYO (Reuters) – She may be cute, but the latest top model to make her debut in Vogue is also podgy with short legs and whiskers.

Hello Kitty, a popular cat character in Japan, is set for a designer makeover in the June issue of Japanese Vogue, which goes on sale on April 26.

The fashion spread will show Kitty modeling the latest autumn and winter designs by John Galiano for the Dior brand, posing with the designer and enjoying a shopping spree in Paris.

"Of course this is the first time the historic fashion house of Dior has had a cartoon character model their entire collection," said an official at Conde Nast Japan, publishers of Vogue Nippon [www.vogue.co.jp/issues/](http://www.vogue.co.jp/issues/)

But the famous feline already has a following among the fashion crowd, she

added.

"Japanese animation and characters have been a strong influence on the fashion world in the last few seasons, but Kitty is special," the official said. "Fashion people all know her name and face and always say they love her. That's why we at Vogue wanted to do something involving her."

## Laser pointers banned after attacks

SYDNEY (Reuters) – A major Australian state has banned laser pointers after a spate of incidents in which aircraft pilots have been temporarily blinded, the government said on Monday.

High-powered hand lasers, including so-called "star pointers" used by astronomers, would be listed as prohibited weapons in New South Wales state with jail terms of up to 14 years for anyone carrying them without a permit.

"It is a gutless and cowardly act that could result in a horrific outcome. It only takes a fraction of a second for a pilot to become temporarily blinded and that could have catastrophic consequences," said state Premier Morris Iemma.

Several pilots have recently reported high-intensity lasers being shone into their cockpits during take-offs and landings, and police recently enlisted intelligence agencies to help combat what papers called "laser lunatics."

The latest incident occurred over Sydney's south at the weekend when an ambulance helicopter was hit by a green beam.

## Sudoku

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

## ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY

Do you need...?

it reed....?