

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Farming resolutions receive national, local attention

SGT. 1ST CLASS STACY NILES
214TH FB

FOB DELTA – Access to water, availability of equipment, training and reclaimed lands were among topics discussed in an agricultural meeting in Wasit April 23.

Brig. Gen. Edward Cardon, the Multi-National Division Center deputy commanding general for support met with Wasit director general of agriculture members and 20 local

farmers to address issues and start the process of linking local, provincial and national government.

“This is the first step in the right direction,” said Sheikh Jamal Batik, member of the Council of Representatives.

Farmers from Wasit, which was once a major agricultural area in Iraq, are suffering from a lack of water, seeds, fertilizer, tractors and equipment, training and support from the government, Batik said.

Although he recognized the differences facing the farmers, Subhi al-Jumeili, senior deputy of the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, said the farmers have to understand that the process, type and quantity of support from the government is changing.

One example of change is farmers will have to purchase seeds and fertilizers at a reduced price. They will not be supplied by the government as in

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Internet initiative connects Iraqi students with world

SPC. LADONNA JENKINS
214TH FB

FOB DELTA – An initiative to connect Iraqi students and teachers with the rest of the world via Internet is underway in Wasit Province.

The Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team, in concert with the Wasit Director General of Education, started a yearlong initiative in March called Access to Information. The program will provide local schools and libraries with books and resources and open Internet centers to selected secondary schools, universities and municipal library headquarters in al-Hayy and al-Kut, said Vanessa Beary, the PRT public diplomacy officer.

The program started with the opening of an Internet center at the al-Kut Girls Secondary School, March 10, and continued with others at Open University April 18 and a similar opening April 20 at the 14 July Boys School. All of the centers contain 10 computer stations, Internet service, furniture, an air conditioning unit and a generator.

The Open University Internet center will serve approximately 1,000 teachers. It will also serve college professors selected to attend a 14-week online train-the-trainer course, taught by the

University of Oregon for English instructors. The course focuses on new language-teaching techniques.

In addition to the Internet center, Open University received several books on behalf of the Advisory Center Organization to supplement the university's student library. The offering included a Teaching of English as a Foreign Language book used to prepare for the TOEFL test. Higher education schools administer the test to measure English proficiency by non-native English speakers.

The Internet center at the 14 July Boys High School in al-Kut, which was established in 1996, will service 1,000 students. Two future Internet projects are aimed at Badrah and Jassan in the coming months as part of the strategy to close the gaps in outlying areas, Beary said.

Beary wants this to be more than just a project, but to have an impact on the entire community.



Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles

Students at the 14 July Boys High School use computers in the recently donated Internet center. The Internet center is part of a yearlong initiative to provide local schools and libraries with books and resources in al-Hayy and al-Kut.

“It’s good to have at school for me,” said 16-year-old Caef Raad, a student at the 14 July Boys High School. “I can chat with other people and study on the Internet.”

In addition to the Internet centers and book distribution, the initiative includes refurbishments at district libraries, providing furniture and establishing TOEFL centers in the future.

FARMING: *MND-C helps Wasit with agricultural issues*

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the past, al-Jumeili said.

The government is also providing loans to farmers at a reduced interest rate. Where the interest rate for seeds used to be 5 percent, the rate is now 2 percent; the rate for equipment, which used to be between 10 - 12 percent, is now also 2 percent, al-Jumeili said.

"We know the support is not 100 percent," he said. "We cannot do everything farmers want."

While the government has changed some of its processes, its goal is to increase the capacity of the agricultural sector and increase the production and quality of products. The government also wants to involve the farmers unions and provincial governments, al-Jumeili said.

While the increase in production of crops is a goal of national and provincial agricultural leaders as well as farmers, the availability of water and fertilizer for the land is a problem in some areas.

In the Dabooni-Jassan area, more than half of the water pumps are inoperable, said Abed Mohamed Obeid,

from the Wasit Director General of Water Resources.

To remedy this problem, the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team in coordination with the Wasit Director General of Water Resources, is working on a \$9.7 million project to replace water pumps servicing the Dabooni-Jassan area. The current pump system, which is Soviet-made, requires extensive repairs. However, the parts are expensive and hard to find, and the company who manufactured the system has since gone out of business, said Mark Wilt, the U.S. Agency for International Development representative for the PRT.

Other areas affected by inoperable water pumps are Badrah and al-Ka-gia.

To further increase the production



Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles

Brig. Gen. Edward Cardon, deputy commanding general of support for MND-C, and Dr. Subhi al-Jumeili, senior deputy of the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, discuss issues farmers have experienced in Wasit during a meeting near Zubeidiya.

of crops, the Iraqi government purchased 2,500 tractors that will be distributed throughout Iraq. The government will also provide date palm spraying.

Also in attendance was Dr. Mudfar al-Kafagy, agricultural adviser to the prime minister of Iraq.

Holocaust ceremony to provoke thought

SPC. SOPHIA R. LOPEZ
MND-C

CAMP VICTORY – On May 2, Soldiers here will hold an observance to remember Kristallnacht, the "Night of the Broken Glass."

On that night in 1938, throughout Nazi Germany more than 90 Jews

were killed and hundreds of Jewish businesses and synagogues were burned to the ground.

Every year, the Multi-National Division - Center Equal Opportunity Office holds a Days of Remembrance event. This year's observance, focused on the Holocaust, is to provoke thought on what happened, why it

happened and how people suffered.

"We commemorate in order to learn how people ought to behave toward each other and how they ought not to behave," said Master Sgt. Rufus J. Lewis, EO deputy program manager for MND-C. "I think this

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THE Dog Face Daily

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EVENT

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can provide a better outlook on society and how we treat people.”

While Days of Remembrance events are usually held at the MND-C level, Rufus said, this year the observance is a Corp event.

The observance will be held at al-Faw Palace, May 2 starting at 10

a.m.

A display of artifacts, books, brochures and video tapes will be open until 2 p.m., Lewis said, along with a flame-lighting ceremony where six candles will be lit for victims of the Holocaust. From 2 - 4 p.m. there will be a formal ceremony with guest

speaker Chaplain (Maj.) Ira Ehrenpries, with a National Guard unit from Baton Rouge, La.

Lewis said this year's event is one of the most somber. “It's more of a mourning because of the deaths.”

All MND-C Soldiers are encouraged to attend this event.

Medal of Honor: CPL John Essebagger Jr.



Cpl. Essebagger, a member of Company A, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. Committed to effect a delaying action to cover the 3d Battalion's withdrawal through Company A, Cpl. Essebagger, a member of 1 of 2 squads maintaining defensive positions in key terrain and defending the company's right flank, had participated in repulsing numerous attacks. In a frenzied banzai charge the numerically superior enemy seriously threatened the security of the planned route of withdrawal and isolation of the small force. Badly shaken, the grossly outnumbered detachment started to fall back and Cpl. Essebagger, realizing the impending danger, voluntarily remained to provide security for the withdrawal. Gallantly maintaining a 1-man stand,

Cpl. Essebagger raked the menacing hordes with crippling fire and, with the foe closing on the position, left the comparative safety of his shelter and advanced in the face of overwhelming odds, firing his weapon and hurling grenades to disconcert the enemy and afford time for displacement of friendly elements to more tenable positions. Scorning the withering fire and bursting shells, Cpl. Essebagger continued to move forward, inflicting destruction upon the fanatical foe until he was mortally wounded. Cpl. Essebagger's intrepid action and supreme sacrifice exacted a heavy toll in enemy dead and wounded, stemmed the onslaught, and enabled the retiring squads to reach safety. His valorous conduct and devotion to duty reflected lasting glory upon himself and was in keeping with the noblest traditions of the infantry and the U.S. Army.

Safety Thought of the Day

Fire Evacuation and Reporting Procedures

IN CASE OF A FIRE:

- Evacuate the premises to a designated area and account for all personnel.
- Notify Fire department (or EOC) and report the following by the fastest means possible:
 - Location – Building/Tent number, camp, street name and directions.
 - Suspected location of any trapped personnel and condition of the fire.
 - Any known hazards in the building, such as flammable liquid or ammunition.
 - Name, grade and call-back information.
- After reporting the fire – remain outside to direct the fire department personnel.
- The building manager or fire warden will ensure all personnel are familiar with:
 - Location and operation of fire alarms, fire fighting equipment and reporting procedures.
 - Best egress routes, alternative routes and posted evacuation plan.
 - Fire drill procedures and individual responsibilities.
- Exit doors must never be locked or obstructed in any manner while the building is occupied.
- Reference: AR 385-40, AR 420-90 & local SOP.

Headline Highlights

Tactless politician; blind justice; “where’s the bank?”

Nose-picking lawmaker to shout his last good-bye

TAIPEI (Reuters) – Taiwan’s cabinet will soon lose one of its more colorful members who was notorious for sleeping in parliament, shouting at legislators, picking his nose in public and shoving a journalist.

Tu Cheng-sheng, education minister since 2004, will step down next month along with current President Chen Shui-bian.

“According to Eastern tradition and Taiwan culture, you could say that these actions were hard to accept,” said Liu Chin-hsu, secretary-general of the National Teachers’ Association.

The cabinet of President-elect Ma Ying-jeou is shaping up as a group of technocrats rather than political firebrands.

Tu, 63, a former National Palace Museum director, magazine editor and visiting Harvard University scholar, was filmed sleeping at an October 2007 parliament meeting.

He was filmed deliberately picking his nose in public as a reaction to criticism for dozing off.

Tu also racked up the highest absentee rate of any cabinet member since 2004, the parliament speaker’s secretary said.

“He screamed at the legislators a lot,” recalled former legislator Joanna Lei.

In August 2007, Tu, often photographed with a glare or a snarl, grabbed a reporter’s microphone and pushed a

cameraman into a wall, local media reported.

Legally blind man teaches alleged intruder a lesson

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) – A legally blind man beat up an intruder and held him at knifepoint until police arrived at the man’s eastside home, authorities said. Allan Kieta, 49, told police he was at home Monday morning when his small dog began barking and he encountered the man.

“I opened the door and just ran into him. I had him pinned in the laundry room and just kept pummeling,” said Kieta, a former wrestler in high school.

He said he grabbed the intruder by the belt and dragged him into the kitchen, where he put a knife at the man’s throat and tried to dial 911.

“Being visually impaired, I couldn’t get the buttons because I was using my left hand,” he said. “It took me about 20 tries.”

Police arrived within minutes and arrested Alvaro Castro, 25, on an initial charge of residential entry, Sgt. Matthew Mount said.

Lt. Jeff Duhamell was impressed with Kieta’s feat.

“Its pretty remarkable for anyone thats blind to be able to defend themselves, let alone make an apprehension,” Duhamell said. “To be able to grab this guy and hold him down until police got there is pretty remarkable.”

Castro, who was initially taken to the

Wishard Memorial Hospital detention facility, denied trying to burglarize the home and said he was a former boyfriend of Kieta’s daughter and was trying to visit her, said Mount.

Kieta said Castro told him he was looking for his cat.

“I go, ‘Your cat? You’re in my house!’” Kieta recalled.

Castro was transferred to the Marion County Jail on Monday night.

Kieta said he suffered swollen hands and a sore back, but no serious injuries.

“When my wife was cleaning the blood off, she said, ‘I think it’s all his,’” Kieta said.

Police: Carjacker stops to ask news crew for directions

CLEVELAND (AP) – A carjacking suspect stopped during the crime to ask a television news crew for directions, police said.

The 19-year-old was arraigned Thursday on a charge of aggravated robbery and ordered held on \$50,000 bond.

WOIO-TV newswoman Shannon O’Brien and photographer Eric Walls were doing a sidewalk report Monday on bank problems when the passenger in a car asked for directions to a bank. The driver signaled that he was being held at gunpoint, O’Brien told police.

The news crew called police and followed the car until officers caught up. Police Lt. Thomas Stacho said the suspect was carrying a loaded handgun.

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from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday’s puzzle:

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

ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY

Where do you come from? im-nien en-teh?