

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Iron Brigade Soldiers – boots on the ground

2ND BCT, 1ST ARMOR DIV.

CAMP BUEHRING - When Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, arrived here at the beginning of April, they had a good idea what they were getting into.

This is the Iron Brigade's third deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and its Soldiers have been preparing for months at their home station in Baumholder, Germany.

Since arriving in Kuwait, training has continued with test-firing weapons, tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles. They have also taken classes on improvised explosive devices and lessons on Iraq-specific tactics, techniques and procedures.

For Cpl. Paul Sanchez, tank mechanic and native of Weslaco, Texas, this is his second deployment in support of OIF. He said the training has been a big help in preparing Soldiers for their mission.

"I know how to fix tanks, that's my job," Sanchez said. "The training here has helped me in other ways, like brushing up on my Soldier skills."

For other Soldiers, such as Pfc. Nathan Ryder, of Boise, Idaho, this is their first deployment. Ryder spent three days patrolling simulated IED lanes as part of his training.

"The IED training was very realistic," he said, adding the ability to recognize IEDs could help save his life and those of his battle buddies.

Other training at Camp Buehring involved working with Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles. The armored vehicles are new to the Army and designed to better protect Soldiers from IED blasts.

For Pvt. Andrew Flowers, of Columbus, Ohio, Headquarters Company, this was his first introduction to the MRAP vehicles.

"We are going to be driving around in these things in Iraq," Flowers said.



Pfc. Michael Schuch

A Soldier from Co. B., 2-6th Inf. Regt., pulls security while training in a simulated IED lane at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

"Getting to know your vehicle now, before we get in country, is a big help."

Some of the Soldiers also received the new improved outer tactical vest (IOTV), which replaces the heavier interceptor body armor (IBA) and is designed to have less movement restriction.

"I like the new vest a lot," Ryder said. "I'm more comfortable in it and still feel protected."

Just as the training and gear has affected the Soldiers, so has the heat. When the Soldiers departed from Germany, snow covered the ground. Now, in Kuwait, they are experiencing near 100-degree weather daily.

"It's best that we are in Kuwait and not somewhere else more comfortable," Flowers said. "The weather here is as close to Iraq as you can get."

Outside of training, the Soldiers

have been taking part in different activities on post. Camp Buehring provides a movie theater, weekly karaoke, a large gym, calling centers, internet cafes and wireless internet in tents for a fee. The dining facility provides four meals a day and food establishments such as Taco Bell, Subway, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and Starbucks offers Soldiers even more variety.

Sanchez said Camp Buehring has done well at facilitating the Soldiers' needs and believes it will have a positive impact on them during deployment.

The 2nd BCT, 1st Armor Div., will assist Iraqis in rebuilding their infrastructure and set conditions for long-term stability. The brigade is from Smith Barracks, Germany, and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since April.

ePRT facilitates Mada'in Agricultural Exposition

MAJ. JOE SOWERS

3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER – More than 1,500 Iraqi farmers attended the Mada'in Agricultural Technology Exposition in al-Wahida, Iraq, April 26 - 27.

The expo resulted from efforts by the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, attached to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, to revitalize farming and agribusiness.

The 3rd HBCT ePRT leaders emphasized agricultural initiatives in the qada to provide long-term economic stability in the primarily agrarian district east of Baghdad.

Fifty-eight percent of the Mada'in citizens are farmers, and another 15 percent are in farm-related businesses, said Col. Bud Jameson, from Sherwood, Ark., ePRT deputy team leader.

During the expo, Baghdad PRT members, Iraqi Agriculture Center representatives and successful farmers demonstrated technology beneficial to farming.

Since the Mada'in Qada is an arid region, leaders also promoted different techniques to improve field irrigations.

"There has been a lot of wasted water because they have been 'flood' irrigating their fields like they did in the old days," Jameson said. "This doesn't work because some of the land is not even and the water runs down into the low ground. Seed in the high ground does not get irrigated."

During the expo, farmers filled out ePRT questionnaires to facilitate farmers associations in their communities.



Pfc. David J. Marshall

Maj. Greg Lester, Company A, 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, from Knoxville, Tenn., talks with an expert on bee keeping at the Mada'in Agricultural Technology Exposition in al-Wahida, Iraq.

"It used to be farmers associated by village," Jameson said. "But the problem with that is one guy might be into fish farming and another into wheat. While they both need water, their priorities are totally different."

Jameson said many farming communities lack diversification.

"If a wheat farmer is having a bad year or wheat prices are down, they have to have another way to support their family," he said.

Jameson said the expo was aimed at revitalizing agriculture in the qada, reinstituting faith in the government and returning a sense of normalcy to the local population,

but he hopes it will provide even more over time.

"There is also a reconciliation aspect to the expo," he said. "People have talked to their local leaders and said they didn't feel safe going out in public and doing things as a family. Now that security has improved, we are hoping they see this as something they can do as a family. We want them to see that peace has arrived."

The 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, is from Fort Benning, Ga., and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2007. The brigade is one of the most deployed brigades in the Army.

THE Dog Face Daily

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Editorial Staff

TF Marne PAO — Lt. Col. Randy Martin

Managing Editor — Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs

Editor/Design — Spc. Sophia Lopez

Contributing Units

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

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

354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Arafia Canal opens with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

SPC. JUSTIN SNYDER
2ND BCT, 1ST ARMOR DIV.

FOB HAMMER – A ribbon-cutting ceremony April 28 marked the re-opening of the Arafia Canal in Arafia, Iraq, which provides irrigation water to approximately 300 area families.

Members of the Jisr Diyala Nahia Council, Sons of Iraq and 3rd Brigade, 1st National Police Division, along with leaders of 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment leaders and 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, took part in the event.

The upgrades include a new concrete lining and three functioning water pumps.

“The Iraqi people contracted all the workers and did all the labor,” said 1st Lt. Jeff Ritter, from Waterloo, Iowa, military operations officer for 3-1st Cav. Regt. civil military operations officer. “We just supplied the funding and influence to make it happen.”

Ritter said the canal opening resulted from cooperation between the Jisr Diyala Nahia Council, the local community council and Coalition forces.

Ritter said continued partnership during the 3-1st Cav. Regt. and 1-35th Armor Regt. transition will allow the



Courtesy Photo

Water pumps in Arafia, Iraq, pump water from the Diyala River into the Arafia Canal.

nahia leadership to maintain confidence in their Coalition force counterparts.

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 in

support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.

The 1-35th Armor Regt., 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armor Division, from Baumholder, Germany, is currently replacing the 3-1st Cav. Regt. east of Baghdad.

Safety Thought of the Day PPE Safety Reminders

- **Eye & Face Protection:** Wear eye protection when required. Ensure lenses are clean and free from scratches. There are no 2nd chances when it comes to preventing eye injuries.
- **Foot Protection:** Proper safety footwear can help to avoid twists & strains, prevent slips and protect the feet from falling objects & boot sole punctures. Inspect regularly to ensure it has traction.
- **Hand Protection:** Inspect and replace gloves if they are torn, cracked, worn or damaged. Make sure they are the right size and type for the job.
- **Head Protection:** Ensure that the Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH) fits securely to the head and the retention straps are properly adjusted. Inspect regularly and replace when the straps are worn.
- **Hearing Protection:** Protect against permanent hearing loss with comfortable earplugs that fit well.
- Keep PPE clean to protect against skin ailments and mold and mildew growth.
- Never share PPE.
- If PPE is broken, cracked, or compromised in any way, turn it in & replace it.
- Ref: AR 385-10.



File photo

Headline Highlights

Underwear auction; meteorite vs. dino dung; pigeon law

Record price for men in underwear at China auction

BEIJING (Reuters) - A Beijing auction raised a record 57.12 million yuan (4.1million pounds) for a mainland Chinese oil painting of men playing cards in their underwear, state media said on Tuesday.

"The Breeding Ground No.1", from the contemporary painter Liu Xiaodong's Three Gorges Series, was bought by a private buyer at the China Guardian 2008 Spring Auction, Xinhua news agency said.

The painting, 2.6 metres (eight and a half feet) high and 10 metres wide, was drawn in the Three Gorges area from 2005 to 2006, depicting 11 men in their underwear playing cards.

"I painted the Three Gorges three times. Every time was a personal improvement for me," said Liu, 45, a China Central Academy of Fine Arts graduate.

Ancient meteorite goes unsold in NY as dung sells

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Some dinosaur dung was snapped up at auction in New York even as a 4.5 billion year old meteorite which was supposed to top the sale went unsold.

The two chunks of 130-million-year-old coprolite, otherwise known as fossilized dinosaur dung, fetched \$960 (482 pounds) at Bonhams in New York on Wednesday, the auction

house said.

The Jurassic-era rocks were sold for more than double their maximum estimate, said spokeswoman Staci Smith.

A 4.5 billion-year-old meteorite, on which a Chinese desert hiker habitually ate lunch before he discovered it was valuable, failed to meet the minimum reserve however.

Bonhams had expected the space rock to sell for \$2.25 million to \$2.75 million.

Smith said negotiations over the meteorite continued after the auction and that a deal could be struck in days.

The owner of the meteorite, Marvin Kilgore, the curator at the University of Arizona's Southwest Meteorite Center, was mystified by the sale of the fossilized dung which is much more common than rocks that have fallen from space.

"Some people want it on their shelves, I guess," he said.

The dung was bought by a phone bidder which the auction house declined to identify.

Venice to fine tourists who feed pigeons

VENICE (Reuters) - The days when Venice tolerated tourists feeding pigeons in St. Mark's Square are over.

Starting on Wednesday, it's illegal.

The sale and distribution of grain to feed the birds is now banned, ending

a tradition that attracted pigeons, and their droppings, to the most picturesque part of the lagoon city.

Fines for ignoring the ban start at 50 euros (39 pounds), the mayor's office said.

The vendors who sold grain to the tourists are now out of a job. "Thanks Mr. Mayor for killing off our business after 100 years of sales," read one banner.

Authorities say pigeons are eating away at the city's marble statues and buildings by pecking at small gaps in the facades to reach for scraps of food that were blown inside.

Cleaning up monuments and repairing the damage caused by pigeons cost each Venetian taxpayer 275 euros a year, one study estimated.

"The monuments aren't being damaged by the bird droppings. They want to send them away, just like they want to kick us out, and we've been here for decades," one vendor told Italy's ANSA news agency.

"Sooner or later they'll even take away the gondoliers."

The battle against the birds is part of a broader campaign to improve decorum and cleanliness in the Unesco World Heritage Site which welcomes more than 1 million tourists a month.

Last year, stewards began patrolling St Mark's Square and other historic sites and can fine tourists found laying out a picnic, walking around bare-chested or dropping food wrappers.

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY

Are you the only male in the house?
in-teh eri-jahl il-wa-hid bil-bait?