

Coalition forces bring aid to village

SGT. DANIEL T. WEST
214 FB

FOB DELTA – Coalition forces conducted a medical assistance mission in Byda Village, near al-Kut, Iraq, May 2.

The mission is part of an outreach program to provide for outlying villages in Wasit Province that have seen little or no Coalition presence, said Lt. Col. Rob Jones, the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction deputy team leader.

American, Salvadoran, Georgian and Lithuanian troops took part in the mission to perform medical and dental checks and distribute food, vitamins and hygiene supplies.

The villagers here need supplies badly, as there is no hospital nearby, said Lt. Fernando Alfaro Iraheta, a doctor with the Salvadoran Cuscatlán Battalion.

“We will give them medicine, whatever’s needed, and any help we can give them,” he said.

The mission also served to improve relationships between Coalition forces and civilians in the area, said 1st Lt. Zaza Komladze, a surgeon with the 1st Georgian Infantry Brigade.



Sgt. Daniel T. West

A Georgian soldier with the 1st GB distributes food to Iraqis during a medical assistance mission in Byda village near al-Kut, Iraq.

“It’s important for peace in this area,” he said. “The people here have a lot of medical problems, mostly because of their poor living conditions.”

The dental services provided for the villagers were limited by the primitive

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Iraqi, Coalition leaders discuss Piledriver progress

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

CAMP STRIKER – Iraqi Army, Coalition, tribal and Government of Iraq leaders met at the IA Compound in Mahmudiyah May 1 to discuss the progress of Operation Marne Piledriver.

Marne Piledriver, a capacity-building operation, kicked-off April 15 with an air assault and dismounted patrols throughout the Mahmudiyah Qada, aimed at disbanding any remaining al-Qaeda threat in the area.

“We want to build trust within Mahmudiyah and make sure the terrorist threat is gone for good,” said Sheikh Abu Amar, Mahmudiyah Qada Council chairman. “In gaining trust, however, we expect people to come to the government when they have issues or project ideas.”

Since the start of Piledriver, a series of projects have begun to improve the stability of local governance and economics throughout the qada.

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, Multi-National Division – Center commanding general, pointed out that Mahmudiyah was

experiencing violence every day only 14 months ago. “All of that has changed now because of the implementation of security measures,” Lynch said.

In conjunction with Marne Piledriver, the Rakkasans of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) have assisted in the construction and refurbishment of schools, medical and water treatment facilities, new IA battle positions, patrol bases and various Sons of Iraq checkpoints throughout the qada.

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26th Brigade Support Battalion maintains the surge

SGT. DAVID TURNER
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — On a typical Saturday morning back home in Minerva, Ohio, Spc. Joshua Wahn might be washing his car or one of his two trucks.

This Saturday, however, he spent the morning pressure-washing Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles and humvees as part of the 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division's "maintenance day".

The 26th BSB keeps hundreds of various vehicles ready for mission in their area of operation. A year spent already in Iraq, however, has not been kind to these machines.

"Every day is maintenance day," said Capt. Carey Way, commander of Company A, 26th BSB. "But since we've been here a year, a lot of these vehicles have taken a beating."

Carey's company handles distribution and is in charge of heavy vehicles like the tank-hauling heavy equipment transports. Much of the time, his vehicles drive on poorly-paved or dirt roads, in a hot, dusty environment.

"Our vehicles get a lot more wear and tear over a year than you would just driving on city streets," he said.

Historical data says that a year in Iraq puts ten years of wear and tear on combat vehicles, said Maj. Henry Young, 26th BSB executive officer.

Having a battalion-wide maintenance day, he said, is the best way



Sgt. David Turner

Staff Sergeant Obbina Awusah, from Brandywine, Md., pitches in to clean MRAPs during the 26th BSB's maintenance day at FOB Kalsu. Awusah is a generator mechanic for the 26th BSB.

to make sure essential equipment will last until the brigade's mission is complete.

"We're recharging, maintaining the force," Young said. "And we're taking time to help sustain ourselves."

With a year's worth of hard miles on the odometer and more than two months to go, it's a struggle to keep these machines in top-working order, Way said.

Way added that while his Soldiers have done a great job keeping their vehicles on the road, maintenance day is a way for them to fight complacency.

"We're here to make sure our ve-

hicles are ready for the rest of the haul," he said.

Nobody is excluded from maintenance day, said Company B commander Capt. Tim Page.

"We told everyone in the battalion, 'this is your place duty for today,'" he said.

During the day, Soldiers performed routine maintenance checks and services, but also paid particular attention to repairing and maintaining air conditioning, radios and other devices.

The Soldiers out on the road understand that equipment has to be up," Young said. "It has to be rolling because it's a lifeline."

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3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division

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7th Sustainment Brigade

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354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Best of Task Force Marne



Air Force Tech. Sgt. Adrian Cadiz

The Dog Face Daily used still photography to feature the heroic actions and generous deeds of the Soldiers in the Multi-National Division - Center. The best of the photos can be found on the Task Force Marne Web site by going to the following link:

http://taskforcemarne.com/index.php?option=com_g2bridge&Itemid=21&g2_itemId=19105

The photos can be downloaded and saved for you to use as keepsakes. While at the TFM Web site, take the time to view the hundreds of articles and video clips that capture MND-C's time in Iraq.

WASIT

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facilities, but Capt. Frederico Gomez, a dentist with the Cuscatlán Battalion, said he does what he can.

"The only treatment we can provide for the pain is to pull the tooth," he said. "Unfortunately, nearly all who

come for treatment need cleaning and I can't do that here."

The villagers took full advantage of the help Coalition forces brought, standing in line for hours waiting for treatment.

"We respect the Coalition forces and appreciate what they are doing here," said Sheikh Sameer, the village sheikh.

MISSION

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Also, a 9-kilometer pipeline now runs to pump fresh water through the area.

In recent weeks, Operation Marne Piledriver has generated enough energy, resources and money for water treatment facilities that by August, 85 percent of the entire qada will be able to receive clean water, said Col. Dominic Caraccilo, commander of 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT).

In other improvements: One of two new radio stations is now up and running. The one in Mahmudiyah aired its first broadcast April 27 and the Yusifiyah station will become operational by May 11. Caraccilo said the stations will broadcast information on health, agriculture and voting information to the populace.

Revitalization of the fish and poultry industries is also under way, with hopes of boosting the economy by providing more jobs to the local populace.

"The ability to be able to offer all of these projects begins with security," said Brig. Gen. Ali Jassim Muhammad Hassen al-Frejee, 25th Brigade, 6th IA Division commander. He said the improved security has allowed the Coalition, IA, Iraqi Police and GoI to work together in creating a better Iraq.

"Without security we cannot do anything, and we know that," Caraccilo said, echoing al-Frejee's statements.

"Leadership is the key to the success in this area," Lynch said, who attributes the success in Mahmudiyah to three things: the great Rakkasans' leadership at battalion and brigade levels, the strength of the Mahmudiyah Qada's IA and IP forces and tribal leaders from the area willing to meet the requirements set before them.

"Seeing the country I call home move forward brings great pride," al-Frejee said. "Everyone must realize it is not being a son of Mahmudiyah, it's being a son of Iraq and it's amazing how much progress has been made over the past months."

Safety Thought of the Day

Refuel Operation Reminders

Listed below are the minimum requirements for safe refuel operations:

- Ground and bond vehicles to permit safe discharge of static electricity.
- Post one Soldier with a portable fire extinguisher.
- Turn off the engine, set master switch to the off position.
- Prohibit smoking within 50 feet (no smoking signs posted).
- Wear protective gloves and chemical splash goggles.
- Ensure correct type of fuel is placed in the vehicle.
- Ensure clean water is readily available to flush eyes or saturated body parts.
- Ensure operators are familiar with emergency shut-off procedures.
- Ensure the use of drip pans and spill kits.
- Ref: FM 10-67-1



File photo

Headline Highlights

Name of God; jail break; alien preparation; celebrity sale

Man asks court to change his name to 'In God We Trust'

ZION, Ill. (AP) – Steve Kreuscher wants a judge to allow him to legally change his name. He wants to be known as “In God We Trust.”

Kreuscher (CROY'-shir) says the new name would symbolize the help God gave him through tough times.

The 57-year-old man also told the (Arlington Heights) Daily Herald he's worried that atheists may succeed in removing the phrase “In God We Trust” from U.S. currency.

He recalls that the phrase “God Reigns” was removed from the Zion city seal in 1992 after courts deemed it unconstitutional. Zion was founded as a theocracy — by a sect that believed the Earth was flat.

The school bus driver and amateur artist in the northern Chicago suburb says he has filed a petition to change his name in Lake County Circuit Court.

Guinea prisoners scoop their way to freedom

CONAKRY (Reuters) – More than 30 prisoners escaped from a jail in southeastern Guinea by using spoons to scoop a hole in the baked earth wall of their prison building which had been softened by rain, prison authorities said.

The 36 detainees made their escape this week after taking advantage

of heavy rain which had fallen on the southeast city of N'Zerekore where the prison was located, the authorities, cited by state media in the West African country, said.

“We found that the detainees used spoons, once the wall was moistened, to dig a hole,” one of the warders told Guinean TV.

“They used their sheets and shirts to make a rope to climb down the right wall of the jail,” he added.

Many of Guinea's old prison buildings were damaged during bloody riots which erupted across the country early last year during a strike by unions protesting against high inflation and the rule of veteran President Lansana Conte.

More than 130 people were killed, mostly civilians shot by security forces.

Denver man seeks support for citywide panel on aliens

DENVER (AP) – A Denver man who wants the city to be prepared for space aliens is proposing a commission to deal with the matter.

The assistant city attorney says he doesn't know what officials will ask about Jeff Peckman's proposal during next week's “review and comment” meeting.

Peckman says an 18-member commission would form a strategy “dealing with issues related to the presence of extraterrestrial beings on Earth.”

The 54-year-old Peckman also needs 4,000 signatures to get his proposal on the November ballot.

Tea with Greenspan a bargain at \$11,000

NEW YORK (Reuters) – How would you like a film role with Johnny Depp, tea with Alan Greenspan or tennis lessons from Andre Agassi?

It's all up for sale in an online auction to benefit the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial, a human rights advocacy group.

Tea with Greenspan and his wife, NBC correspondent Andrea Mitchell, was going for \$11,000, according to the Web site here. Bidding ends on May 7.

Last year tea with Greenspan went for \$45,000, promoters of the event said. No word on whether the winner received investment tips.

By comparison, a phone call with personal finance guru Suze Orman was going for \$450.

VIP tickets to Jim Cramer's “Mad Money” show on CNBC had a price of \$4,200.

A walk-on role with Depp in the film “Public Enemies” had a price of \$32,000 and the highest bid for a tennis lesson with Andre Agassi stood at \$70,000, with the next minimum bid set at \$75,000.

Other mementos of and meetings with celebrities, journalists and politicians were up for sale.

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to Saturday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY

Are you related to him? in-teh tig-rab-leh?