

Clearing out insurgents



Spc. Amanda McBride

Soldiers assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, currently attached to 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, pull security on a street during a raid in Jabella, Iraq. In an effort to clear out criminals in the area, Iraqi Army Soldiers with support from Coalition forces raided several houses and detained 29 suspected insurgents.

Weapons cache found in Wardia

Pfc. Michael Schuch

2ND BCT, 1ST ARMORED DIV.

FOB HAMMER – U.S. Soldiers discovered a weapons cache belonging to a local criminal group known for targeting Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition forces, while patrolling the town of Wardia May 3.

Soldiers with Company D, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, and Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, found the cache through a tip received from Sons of Iraq and National Police sources.

Explosives ordnance disposal Soldiers confirmed the cache included three Iranian rocket-propelled grenades, three RPG launchers, propellant, multiple trip flares, one heavy machine gun, ski masks and ISF uniforms.

The Soldiers from 1-15th Inf. Regt. are currently attached to 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, which is scheduled to redeploy soon to Fort Benning, Ga.

They conducted the reconnaissance mission as part of a scheduled transition of the area to the 1-6th Inf. Regt. Soldiers, attached to 1st Squadron, 35th Armor Regiment.

A key element in the transition is that the relationship with the Iraqi NP brigade will stay in place, said Maj. Andrew Koloski, from Juneau, Alaska, the executive officer of 3-1st Cav. Regt.

"The National Police have increased their abilities so they can provide the continuity in our area of operations," said Koloski, adding the NPs have given intelligence leading to several cache finds.

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

The 1-6th Inf. Regt. and 1-35th Armor Regt. are assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, from Baumholder, Germany.

Time Sensitive Target platoon follows tip

Pfc. EVAN LOYD

2ND BCT, 1ST ARMORED DIV.

FOB HAMMER – Members of the time sensitive target platoon, an element of 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, conducted a search mission May 1 in Jisr Diyala to verify information on a potential weapons cache.

The TST specializes in raid and search operations against criminals in the Mada'in Qada; their searches are not limited to one battalion area of operations, said Maj. David Guthrie, from Hampton, Va.

"The TST is really a master of all areas," said Guthrie, the operations officer in charge of planning the TST missions. "They do missions all over the Mada'in Qada."

First Lieutenant John Lorme, from Aberdeen, Md., the unit's platoon leader, received information of possible rocket-propelled grenades and launchers hidden in a house in Jisr Diyala. Leaders of 3-1st Cav. Regt. suspected criminals of using a house to prepare attacks against Coalition forces, said Capt. James Capobianco, from Middleton, N.Y., intelligence officer for 3-1st Cav. Regt.



Pfc. Evan Loyd

Private First Class Danny Cocks, a TST platoon driver for the 3-1st Cav. Regt. performs pre-combat maintenance on his vehicle before setting off on a mission to search a house for accelerants in Jisr Diyala, Iraq.

"My men hope for the best and are prepared for the worst," Lorme said before the mission.

When they arrived at the target house, the TST platoon Soldiers quickly set up a perimeter. They began the mission by clearing the target houses and securing the people inside. Their search for weapons and explosives lasted about an hour, but none were found.

"You don't always find something on these missions," Lorme said. "But ... everyone comes back safe, it's a success to me." Guthrie agreed with Lorme's assessment.

"Going out there disrupts the extremists," he said. "When we raid into their sanctuary, it disrupts the extremists' networks and they feel hounded."

In the 14 months that TST has operated in the Mada'in Qada, their efforts have been successful, Guthrie said. They have captured five brigade-level high value individuals, 12 squadron HVIs and numerous weapons caches.

On this mission, the 3-1st Cav. Regt. Soldiers were joined by several members of the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, who is in the process of replacing the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team in the Mada'in Qada.

The 1-35th Armor Regt., is assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, from Baumholder, Germany.

The 3-1st Cav. Regt., assigned to 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Benning, Ga., has been deployed in support of Operation Iraq Freedom since March 2007.

Congratulations to TFM's latest outstanding Soldiers

2008 NCO of the Year:

SGT Joshua Ridge

HHB, 1-76 FA, 4 BCT, 3ID

2008 Soldier of the Year:

SPC Michael Holbrook, 3-7 CAV, 2BCT, 3ID

3rd Quarter NCO of the Quarter:

SGT Chad Reiter, 3-7 CAV, 2BCT, 3ID

Soldier of the Quarter:

PFC Aaron Lovato, HHB 1-76 FA, 2BCT, 3ID

Newest Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

Inductees:

SSG Carolyn Thompson

HHC, 2-3 BTB, 2BCT, 3ID

SSG Darias Strickland

Co. A 3-7 CAV, 2BCT, 3ID

SSG Ryan Hellman

Co. C 3-7 CAV, 2BCT, 3ID

SSG Benjiman Bourman

HHB 1-76 FA, 4BCT, 3ID

SFC Anthony Crisostomo

HHC, 3-187 IN, 3BCT, 101st ABN

SSG Johnny White

HHC, 3 STB, 3BCT, 101st ABN

SSG Amos Sward

HHC, 3STB, 3BCT, 101st ABN

THE

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2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored 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

Dem Dudes take basketball championship

SGT. JASON STADEL
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU – It took a span of four days but in the end, Dem Dudes held off the Patriots 44-37 to claim the FOB Kalsu basketball championship May 3.

Dem Dudes was comprised of Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division; 153rd Military Police Company, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery; and 2nd Battalion, 69th Field Artillery. Soldiers from 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., formed the Patriots.

The championship game began April 29 under a sky dark with dust and clouds. Both teams struggled offensively in the first half, which ended with Dem Dudes leading 17-16.

In the second half, the pace of the game changed from poor offense to stepped-up defense.

Dem Dudes had three quick steals and converted them into six fast-break points to take a seven-point lead.

After the transition points, the pace of the game slowed down and the sky turned darker. Rain began to fall, and for the safety of the players, officials



Courtesy Photo

Sergeant Mickey Campbell, Dem Dudes, drives for a layup past a defender from the Patriots during the FOB Kalsu basketball championship May 3. Dem Dudes claimed the title with a 44-37 win.

stopped the game with nine minutes remaining in the second half. At the weather delay, Dem Dudes clung to a five-point lead.

From where it left off, the game continued four days later on May 3.

Here, the Patriots were able to make a run, this time under a cloudless sky.

Dem Dudes started with a zone defense to clog the middle of the court

and force the Patriots to take outside shots.

“They had good three-point shooters but they were a bit off,” said Sgt. 1st Class Deon Sparkling, coach of Dem Dudes.

Although the Patriots’ shots weren’t falling, Dem Dudes failed to grab the defensive rebounds. The Patriots took advantage of the offensive boards to get within one; however, that was as close as the game would be.

“They (the Patriots) played hard today. We were just the better team,” said Sgt. Mickey Campbell, Dem Dudes team captain.

In the last four minutes of the game, Dem Dudes used the fast break to sustain the lead, and a three-point bucket by Sgt.

1st Class Randy Parker sealed the win.

“We won because of teamwork,” Parker said. “You’ve got to play team basketball to win.”

The FOB Kalsu basketball championship started with 10 teams. Dem Dudes ran the table going 4-0. They finished the season with an 11-1 record and were also the preseason tournament champions.

Safety Thought of the Day

Knife Safety Reminders

- Keep all body parts clear of the cutting path.
- Firmly grip the knife and always cut away from the body.
- When passing a knife, hand it handle first.
- Never grab a falling knife. Let it fall and then pick it up.
- Do not use a locking folding knife if the blade does not lock open.
- Keep knife folded or sheathed when carrying or not using.
- Use the right knife for the right job & remember a sharp knife is a safe knife.
- Avoid any type of horseplay when using a knife.



File photo

Headline Highlights

Beer-can coffin; pizza apology; beard sale; pipe show woes

Illinois man orders custom Pabst Blue Ribbon coffin

SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS, Ill. (AP) – Bill Bramanti will love Pabst Blue Ribbon eternally, and he's got the custom-made beer-can casket to prove it.

"I actually fit, because I got in here," said Bramanti of South Chicago Heights.

The 67-year-old Glenwood village administrator doesn't plan on needing it anytime soon, though.

He threw a party Saturday for friends and filled his silver coffin — designed in Pabst's colors of red, white and blue — with ice and his favorite brew.

"Why put such a great novelty piece up on a shelf in storage when you could use it only the way Bill Bramanti would use it?" said Bramanti's daughter, Cathy Bramanti, 42.

Bramanti ordered the casket from Panozzo Bros. Funeral Home in Chicago Heights, and Scott Sign Co. of Chicago Heights designed the beer can.

Papa John's apologizes for shirts calling James names

CLEVELAND (AP) – Papa John's Pizza issued an apology to Cleveland and the Cavaliers for making T-shirts with LeBron James' number and the word "crybaby" under it.

To apologize, Papa John's will sell

Cleveland residents a large, one-topping pizza for 23 cents on Thursday.

The 23 is an homage to James' jersey number. The company also will donate \$10,000 to the Cavaliers Youth Fund.

The pizza chain's T-shirts were featured during the Cavs' games against the Wizards on Friday in Washington.

Wizards fans taunted the Cavs, who won the playoff series that night in Game 6.

The shirts started after James complained about hard fouls, and Wizards center Brendan Haywood called him a crybaby.

German politician debating auctioning his beard

BERLIN (Reuters) – The head of Germany's Social Democrats, who has ambitions to be his country's next leader, is thinking about donating his beard to charity, but is not quite sure.

Kurt Beck, who as party leader has a strong claim to lead the SPD into next year's national election, said in a panel discussion in Mainz that he might shave off his beard to raise 1 million euros (\$1.5 million) for charity, the newspaper Bild am Sonntag reported.

"It must be serious and not turn into a spectacle," he told the paper. "The event would have to help the really needy."

"I'm still thinking about it," he added.

Beck's beard, like the rest of his hair, is short, grey and bristly. He recently told reporters his wife Roswitha, a hairdresser, had said he had "hair like a guinea pig".

He currently trails conservative chancellor Angela Merkel by over 50 points in personal opinion poll ratings -- leading to speculation that he may face a challenge with his party for the right to run against her.

Smoking ban tamps down puffing at pipe convention

ST. CHARLES, Ill. (AP) – There will be no indoor smoking at a large convention for pipe smokers in Illinois.

A new Illinois law bans smoking in public places.

That's taken some of the steam out of this weekend's Chicagoland International Pipe & Tobacciana Show in St. Charles.

The event draws 4,000 pipe collectors from more than 60 countries. Organizers tried to get around the new law by arguing their gathering was a private club meeting. Police and health officials said no.

Instead, a large smoking tent has been set up 15 feet away from the Pheasant Run convention center.

Convention-goer Al Shinogle of Denver likens it to a wine tasting without the wine.

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY

Are you related to them? in-teh tig-rah-bil-hoom?