

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Kalsu opens distance learning center for Soldiers

SPC. AMANDA McBRIDE
4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — Soldiers stationed here have a new place to continue their education since the grand opening of the FOB Kalsu Distance Learning Center May 4.

The center houses 20 computers, allowing Soldiers more time for either military or college courses.

Internet cafes are already available on the FOB but have a 30-minute limit and there is often waiting, said Lt. Col. John Chadbourne, commander of 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Noticing this brought the decision for the distance learning center, which allocates Soldiers two hours per week to complete studies.

"Soldiers can sign up for a two-hour block up to a week in advance," Chadbourne said. "So they know in advance when they can go."

During the ceremony, Col. Thomas James, commander of 4th BCT, spoke about the importance of education during deployment.

"Soldiers are always on the line, working every day," James said. "The key thing here is to allow the Soldiers the opportunity when they are off to educate themselves."



Spc. Amanda McBride

Colonel Thomas James, commander of 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., and Lt. Col. John Chadbourne, commander of 703rd BSB, unveil the FOB Kalsu Distance Learning Center sign during the grand opening at FOB Kalsu, Iraq.

Sergeant Detra Sneed, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., said the new facility allows her to further both her military career and prepare for a career once out of the military.

"I feel this is the best thing they could have done," Sneed said. "Knowledge is

power and with Soldiers leaving and going back home, it's great to be able to grow professionally."

Chadbourne said he hoped Soldiers would be able to utilize the facility. "That way they don't have to stop their education just because they are deployed."

The center will be open seven days a week, from noon to midnight.

Two high value individuals captured in Mussayib area

4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — Coalition forces captured five detainees, to include two battalion-level high value individuals, during Operation Berlin May 4 in the Mussayib area, which is south of Baghdad.

The operation was executed as two simultaneous raids in two different locations.

Company C, 3rd Battalion, 7th In-

fantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, received intelligence from informants leading to the captures during the cordon and search operation.

First Lieutenant Greg Home, 4th Platoon leader, gave credit to their Tactical Human Intelligence Team's (THT) efforts in the successful capture of both targets.

"Their hard work allowed us to know exactly where the targets lived,

and enabled us to know when they were home," he said. "To get two guys like this in one night is rare. Normally one is out of town, or not at home, but because of our THT guys we had confidence en route to the objective that both would be home."

The HVIs are suspected of involvement with weapons trafficking, kidnapping, murder, improvised explo-

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First Iraqi comedy in Wasit since Saddam's era

SGT. DANIEL T. WEST
214TH FB

FOB DELTA – Actors from the popular Iraqi sitcom, “Mud House,” performed the first comedic play May 4 in Wasit Province, in al-Kut, since 2003.

“People and People” conveyed Iraqi life from a comedic perspective to entertain the Wasit audience and give them hope and optimism for the future, as described by the actors, An'am al-Rubay'ai, Ali Dakhil and Majid Yasin.

Fifteen hundred people filled the Municipality Hall in al-Kut to see the play, which was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State in coordination with the 214th Fires Brigade and the Iraqi Police.

The IP, estimated another 3,000 people were waiting outside the theater, said Vanessa Beary, public diplomacy officer for the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team.

“The large turnout was a positive indicator of Wasit's desire for a return to normalcy,” she said.

Colonel Peter Baker, commander of the 214th FB, said the event was very well received.

“It was impossible not to be caught up with the audience's laughter,” he said. “It was a very light and joyful mood.”

“Attending the play, I was challenged by the language barrier, but the actors were so good at acting their comedic parts that it transcended both language and cultural barriers,” Baker said.

The event granted the people of Wasit an opportunity to forget their troubles, if only for a night, Baker said.

“Perhaps it is a turning point for the quality of life for Iraqi citizens in Wasit,” he said. “I see it as a high point:



Courtesy Photo

Actors from the popular Iraqi sitcom, “Mud House,” performed the first comedic play in Wasit Province since 2003, in al-Kut. “People and People” conveyed Iraqi life from a comedic perspective to entertain residents.

life returning to normal for people in Wasit.”

Iraqi Security Forces handled security for the event.

This showed a big step forward in security and a good community gathering, said 1st Lt. Randy Heath, a platoon leader for Company F, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), from Fort Campbell, Ky.

“The community had trust in the security provided by the Iraqi Police and

the Iraqi Army,” he said.

“They seemed to really enjoy the play,” he added.

Baker said ISF remained conscious of the opportunity for mishap because of the large number of people gathered. “It's an indication of the growth of their capabilities. They are more proactive and organized. There were no incidents.”

Because of the large turnout, the actors held an encore performance May 5.

THE Dog Face Daily

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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

Karada Vocational Training Center provides new start for Iraqis

PFC. MICHAEL SCHUCH
2ND BCT, 1ST ARMORED DIV.

FOB HAMMER – Iraqi citizens near Jisr Diyala, Iraq, now have new opportunities in providing for their families, thanks to the Karada Vocational Training Center.

The training center offers local Iraqis the chance to learn entry-level skills required to obtain jobs through a wide variety of courses, such as masonry, welding, sewing and electrical installation.

“Now the Iraqi graduates have these basic skill sets,” said Mickey Toreano, U.S. Agency for International Develop-

ment representative. “As businesses return to the Jisr Diyala area, they will be able to fill the jobs.”

Toreano called it a good start for the Iraqi people, as it will give them other options to feed their families instead of planting IEDs for money.

The center’s most recent course cycle produced 66 graduates out of a total of 81 students. The previous cycle produced only six graduates, before Soldiers of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team began promoting the center. They did so by talking with governmental counterparts and encouraged them to take slots at the academy.

The 3rd HBCT is helping with fund-

ing and building a second vocational training center in Salman Pak, expected to start classes by September, Toreano said.

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division are taking over assistance efforts for building the Salman Pak center as they relieve the 3rd HBCT and assume operations in the Mada’in Qada.

The 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Benning, Ga., has been deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.

The 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div., from Baumholder, Germany, deployed to Iraq in support of OIF in April.

HVI: Coalition forces capture five detainees south of Baghdad

From page 1

sive device making and sniper attacks against Coalition forces.

“The role of the local citizens in the successful execution of Operation Berlin serves as yet another indicator of the unwillingness of law abiding Iraqi citizens to allow criminals and outsiders to operate with impunity in the

Musayyib area,” said Lt. Col. Timothy Newsome, 3-7th Inf. Regt. commander.

Soldiers with 1st Platoon, Co. C, conducted one raid and detained three individuals, as well as two AK-47s, one bolt-action rifle, two 22 mm pistols, one new 62 mm MTR sight, one defused grenade, one set of body armor, one hand-held radio, one sniper rifle

technical manual, one IA uniform, eight cell phones, 25 pounds of PKC/ RPK weapons repair parts, 200 7.62 mm rounds and 123,000 Iranian rial.

Soldiers with 4th Platoon, Co. C, conducted the other raid and detained two individuals, as well as one AK-47, one Glock pistol, two cell phones, one set of body armor, one hard drive and one hand-held radio.

Safety Thought of the Day Storage & Care of Ammunition & Explosives

- Remove dirt, grit, and foreign materials before storing. Maintain cleanliness.
- Keep all containers closed & locked so that contents cannot be handled, examined, or removed.
- Do not open, repair, pack, or repack containers within 75 ft. of storage area.
- Do not keep empty containers, tools, or other materials in storage area.
- Never mix ammo & residue. Store each lot separately. Make stacks stable. Provide for circulation of air to all parts of the stack. Raise containers and ammunition off the floor.
- Do not smoke or bring matches into storage areas.
- Do not allow unauthorized access.
- Close doors when vehicle is approaching platform unless vehicle is equipped with spark arrestor on exhaust.
- Keep a 50 ft. clearance from combustible

material.

- Keep doors open when personnel are working in storage areas containing explosives or ammunition.
- For more information: DA Pam 385-64.



File photo

Headline Highlights

Fines for 'enjoying the view'; mystery over poet's remains

Chinese drivers fined for slow-drive on scenic bridge

BEIJING (Reuters) – China opened the world's longest cross-sea bridge last week aiming to cut travel time between two major ports, but hundreds of drivers have been fined already for, unexpectedly, driving too slow to enjoy the view.

The 36-km structure spans Hangzhou Bay in the booming province of Zhejiang, designed to slash travel time between its port city of Ningbo and the financial hub Shanghai from four hours to two and a half.

But since its opening on May 1, police have fined more than 300 drivers, most for driving too slowly or illegal parking on the emergency lanes while enjoying the ocean view and taking photos, local media reported on Monday.

"I just wanted to drive a bit slowly and enjoy the sea breeze. Is that wrong?" Zhejiang's official news portal (www.zjol.com.cn) quoted an unnamed driver as complaining.

Long lines of cars carrying whole families eager to see the bridge and sea vista have caused serious traffic problems and led to a series of accidents, the news portal said.

Some drivers busted for illegal parking even posed in front of police cameras, hoping to turn police snapshots into souvenirs, it said.

"Traffic jams should be impossible under normal circumstances given

the capacity of the bridge," the news portal said.

The \$1.7-billion (864 million pounds) bridge's much publicised "sightseeing platforms" in the middle of the span will not be ready for tourists for another two years, local media have reported.

Mystery deepens over German poet Schiller's skull

BERLIN (Reuters) – A painstaking two-year investigation to determine which of two skulls belonged to Friedrich Schiller has found neither is a match, prolonging a 180-year-old mystery over the celebrated German poet's remains.

A team of international experts came to their surprise conclusion after comparing DNA samples from the two skulls in question to material from the graves of the poet's relatives.

"The investigations into the relics which have been attributed to Friedrich Schiller have proven that neither of the skulls is authentic," said a statement released by the Weimar Foundation and MDR broadcaster who had supported the research.

German anthropologists from Berlin and Freiburg had initiated the project and earlier this year they exhumed the graves of several of Schiller's family members in southern Germany.

The puzzle over the skull began

in 1826, 21 years after Schiller died when the mayor of Weimar had 23 skulls dug up from a mass grave in which the poet was buried.

The mayor identified the biggest skull and one which bore a resemblance to the dramatist's death mask as Schiller's.

It was brought to the home of his contemporary Goethe before being buried in a crypt in the eastern city of Weimar.

Later, Goethe's tomb was placed next to Schiller's in the crypt which still attracts about 41,000 visitors a year.

Schiller had spent the last years of his life in Weimar which is mostly famous for being Goethe's home for almost 50 years.

However, in 1911, another skull was retrieved from the mass grave and researchers claimed that was the real one, sparking a lengthy dispute amongst academics, historians and anthropologists about the origin of the two skulls.

It is now a mystery where the dramatist's skull is.

Schiller, who lived between 1759 and 1805, wrote plays which are still performed regularly both in Germany and abroad.

His poems including the Ode to Joy which Beethoven set to music in his Ninth Symphony.

The team of experts came from institutions in Germany, Austria and the United States.

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY

Are you a relative? into gah-rah-yib?