

## Bridge linking Busayefi to Hawr Rajab opened

**SGT. KEVIN STABINSKY**  
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — Brightly painted flowers, hearts and polka-dots color the new bridge with cheery symbols. Most importantly, the bridge's construction between the communities of Busayefi and Hawr Rajab paints a symbol of unity.

Once, under the control of insurgents, the communities became isolated and separated from each other by the Mercedes Canal.

Thanks to the efforts of Coalition forces, Iraqi Army and citizens tired of violence, the insurgents were driven away. However, the canal still isolated them from each other.

Their desire to establish relationships with one another materialized May 13 when the bridge linking the communities officially opened.

The event was coordinated by Wasmei Yas Khudhayer, owner of the Adwa al-Ashar Construction Company and supervisor of the project. Besides having an Iraqi company perform the construction, the project was funded



Courtesy photo

Sheikh Salah (left), a prominent sheikh in Busayefi, cuts the ribbon on a new bridge. The bridge, constructed by an Iraqi company and funded by the GoI, spans the Mercedes Canal and links the communities of Hawr Rajab and Busayefi.

by the Government of Iraq.

In the past, most projects were funded using money available to Coalition commanders via the Commander's Emergency Relief Program. Now, with security being established, the GoI is taking an active role in its country's reconstruction.

"It's an important sign that the GoI is footing the bill to reunite their communities," said Maj. John Brock, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Sheikhs from multiple areas attended the event, including Sheikh Salah, who cut the ribbon over the bridge and Jalil from Busayefi. Sheikhs Ahmed and Salah from Khamasiyah, Sheikhs Yassin and Hamid from Adwaniyah and Adel from Hawr Rajab were also present.

Brock, a native of New Orleans, La., said the bridge will help re-establish community relations between two cities once fragmented by criminal activity.

Once the event was over, the crowd moved to the Busayefi

Sons of Iraq headquarters for lunch, where they discussed the importance of working together to prevent the criminal activity that once caused division in the area.

"The key thing is we are linking communities together," said Maj. Dan Canales, 2nd BCT civil affairs officer and native of Point Pleasant, N.J., who said that before the bridge was constructed, citizens had to take more difficult, longer roads to travel between the cities.

## Falcon Brigade flight hours exceed 100,000

**SGT. 1ST CLASS THOMAS MILLS**  
3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP STRIKER — The 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division surpassed a remarkable milestone May 13 while deployed in Baghdad, having flown more than 100,000 flight hours

in less than 12 months of combat.

The 3rd CAB reached this milestone while in support of Multi-National Division — Center and, most recently, providing attack helicopter support to Multi-National Division — Baghdad.

With unmanned aerial systems assigned to the 3rd CAB as intelligence,

surveillance and reconnaissance assets for MND-C, the total flight hours for airframes surpassed 120,000 flight hours.

During the brigade's previous deployment in support of MND-B in 2005

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# 1-35 Armor Regt. takes command at COP Cashe

**SPC JUSTIN SNYDER**  
2ND BCT, 1 AD.

FOB HAMMER – Soldiers held a ceremony May 12, transferring authority in the Jisr Diyala nahia, Iraq, from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Cavalry Regiment, to the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, at Combat Outpost Cashe.

The ceremony began with the playing of both the United States and Iraqi national anthems.

Colonel Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., commander of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, addressed the crowd, which included 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division Soldiers, 3rd HBCT Soldiers and many local Iraqi leaders and citizens.

Grigsby, a native of Prince George's County, Md., thanked the Iraqi leaders and the Sons of Iraq for helping the 3-1st Cav. Regt. accomplish a successful mission in the Jisr Diyala nahia. He told the Iraqis that, though his people are leaving, his Soldiers' hard work will continue through the efforts of the incoming 1-35th Armor Regt.

"We thank the Sons of Iraq and local leaders for a successful tour over the past 15 months," Grigsby said. "The Iron Brigade is more than ready to assist you and your needs. This is only the beginning."

Lieutenant Colonel John Kolasheski, commander of the 3-1st Cav. Regt., took the podium following Grigsby's speech. He said the ceremony was not just a welcoming for a new command, but a celebration of what the Iraqi peo-



Spc. Justin Snyder

Lieutenant Colonel Rich Morales, 1-35th Armor Regt. commander, stands in front of his Soldiers as he prepares to uncased his unit colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at COP Cashe.

ple have accomplished over the past 15 months.

"Together, we have put the wheels in motion," said Kolasheski, a native of Loudon, Tenn. "Seize this opportunity you have been given and move forward not backwards."

Following his speech, Kolasheski cased the colors of the 3-1st Cav. Regt. and turned over the microphone to Lt. Col. Rich Morales, commander of the 1-35th Armor Regt, who uncased the

1-35th Armor Regt. colors.

Morales, a native of El Paso, Texas, told the people it was time for the 3-1st Cav. Regt. to return to their families and promised their efforts would be remembered and honored with continued cooperation in their area of operation.

"Today we begin a new chapter in a very proud book," Morales said. "My Soldiers are committed to helping. Together we will move forward."

Kolasheski feels confident in the abilities of the 1-35th Armor Regt. and believes they will do a wonderful job over the next 15 months.

"These Soldiers are well trained and well led," Kolasheski said. "They have a good understanding of their environment and what is up ahead. They are the perfect unit for the job."

Sheikh Case, a local tribal leader, attended the ceremony. He has worked with the 3-1st Cav. Regt. on numerous projects during their stay at COP Cashe. He said he looks forward to working with the 1-35th Armor Regt. in the coming months.

"Anything these guys need, me and my people will be there," Case said. "I know they are here to help."

The ceremony concluded with the playing of the 3rd Infantry Division Song, the 1st Armored Division Song and the Army Song.

The 1-35th Armor Regt. falls under the command of the 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div., from Baumholder, Germany, which is replacing the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. in the Mada'in Qada, in southeastern Baghdad Province.

## THE Dog Face Daily

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720th Military Police Battalion

354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



## FALCON: 3rd CAB surpasses milestone in less than a year

### From page 1

they flew more than 80,000 flight hours in 12 months. The 3rd CAB is set to redeploy to Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., by August after completing a 15-month deployment.

Several factors have contributed to the 3rd CAB's ability to maintain this level of operational tempo, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Arthur Gribensk, brigade aviation maintenance officer. Gribensk said the overall strategy was to ensure operations and maintenance were synched at every level.

"We looked at the OPTEMPO daily and projected out as far as we could to see what the impact would be to adjust fire now, rather than wait until it impacted maintenance," Gribensk said.

Forward looking thinking and planning, coupled with integrating the civilian contractor work force with the Soldier maintainer work force was crucial, he added.

"That is imperative," he said. "Proactive, predictive maintenance planning working with operations as much as possible to minimize reactive maintenance."

Gribensk said keeping opera-

tions informed daily on the impact OPTEMPO has on maintenance capabilities is important so operations do not overfly the capabilities.

The 3rd CAB maximized the Soldier work force as its first priority, he said, then used civilian contractors to compensate for the deficit of man-hours the high OPTEMPO required.

Besides maintenance and operations working together, supply planning played a big role as well. As part of last summer's surge forces, the 3rd CAB didn't relieve a unit in place in the traditional sense. The parts and supplies system had to be created from scratch. The 3rd CAB used demand analysis established in Iraq and mirrored it as best it could, Gribensk said, in order to give an idea of what parts it needed on hand.

That effort allowed the 3rd CAB to meet and exceed the OPTEMPOs of other CABs in the shortest period of time, he said.

"It's a mutual effort," Gribensk said. "But it is ultimately our magnificent maintainers in this brigade."

The 3rd CAB executive officer, Lt. Col. Greg Kanicki, agreed, saying it was a total team effort, from the maintainers all the way to the operators.

"We've all played a part in facilitating the brigade's ability to operate at this high level," Kanicki said. "Additionally, we've levered the experience of our Soldiers with multiple deployments. We should be getting better if we are truly a 'learning organization.'"

To put this milestone into context, Gribensk said the normal OPTEMPO while training in the US is usually anywhere between 11 and 13 hours per airframe per month depending on the type of aircraft and the training mission requirements. Once deployed, the flight hours can be several times higher.

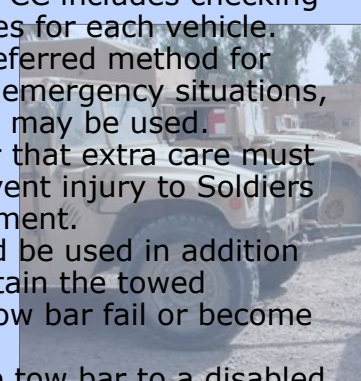
"For example," Gribensk said, "in (Iraq) the AH-64 surges to almost 90 hours per airframe per month, the Blackhawk to about 65 hours per airframe per month, the Chinook to almost 60 hours per airframe per month and the Kiowa to over 95 hours per airframe per month. This equates to 5 to 6 times the OPTEMPO in garrison."

Gribensk emphasized it was truly a "one team, one fight" effort.

"Ultimately, no matter the plan, it was our Soldiers and civilians that executed this program superbly," he said.

## Safety Thought of the Day

### HMMWV Towing Reminders

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- During recovery operations for disabled equipment, ensure PCC includes checking for tow bars or cables for each vehicle.
  - Tow bars are the preferred method for towing vehicles. In emergency situations, tow straps or cables may be used. However, remember that extra care must be exercised to prevent injury to Soldiers or damage to equipment.
  - Safety chains should be used in addition to the tow bar to retain the towed vehicle should the tow bar fail or become disconnected.
  - Before attaching the tow bar to a disabled vehicle chock the wheel and/or set the emergency brake. Remember to release before movement.
  - Vehicles should never be towed in reverse except by a wrecker.
  - Do not exceed a towing speed of 30 mph (48 kph) or a towing distance of 30 mi (48 km) without first removing the front propeller shaft and/or rear propeller shaft with the parking brake rotor. Failure to do this could result in damage to the transmission and/or the transfer case. Notify unit maintenance personnel if this procedure has been conducted.
  - At no time should personnel stand between the two vehicles unless it is absolutely necessary.
  - Do not negotiate a slope greater than 30 degrees while towing a vehicle.
  - Ref: TM 9-2320-280-10 & FM 4-30.31.

## Headline Highlights

# 'Snake man' escapes; Girl Scout sale; beetle investigation

## 'Snake man' slithers out of Austrian prison cell

VIENNA (Reuters) – A man has escaped from his Austrian jail cell by squeezing through a food hatch in the door, police said on Wednesday.

The 19-year old Kosovan, who weighed less than 121 pounds, was being held at the prison in Linz for entering the country illegally, police spokesman Alexander Niederwimmer told APA news agency.

How he got through two further doors or possibly over the prison wall is being investigated, said Niederwimmer, calling the escapee "a snake man."

## Michigan Girl Scout sells 17,328 boxes of cookies

DETROIT (AP) – A Girl Scout sold 17,328 boxes of the group's signature cookies this year by setting up shop on a street corner, shattering her troop's old mark and probably setting a national record.

Jennifer Sharpe, a 15-year-old from Dearborn, plans to travel to Europe with her troop with the proceeds from her feat.

"It's always been one of those goals I wanted to accomplish," Sharpe said Wednesday.

The two bakeries that make the cookies said Sharpe sold more than anyone this year, according to Dianne Thomas, spokeswoman for the Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit.

Michelle Tompkins, spokeswoman for

the New York-based national organization, called the figure "amazing" but said there's no national record on the books.

"We're thrilled for the girls who take it to such a great level, but so far, we don't track it at the national level," she said.

Sharpe sold cookies every day on a street corner with help from her mother and troop leader, Pam Sharpe.

"We were always there; we never closed," Pam Sharpe said. "At one point, Jenny got really sick and we did shut down early, and we heard about it the next day."

Jennifer Sharpe's Troop 813 raised about \$21,000 in cookie sales, paying for its 10-day trip to Europe this winter. Troops get only part of the proceeds from their members' sales.

The cookie program has helped push Jennifer out of her shell, Pam Sharpe said.

"It's made her really confident," she said. "I remember when she first started selling, she was very shy and quiet and you had to push her out to talk to customers, but now she's right out there, first to the door."

One thing that hasn't changed, despite selling thousands of boxes for the past few years, is Jennifer Sharpe's feelings about the cookies.

"I love them," she said.

## Giant beetles seized at Pennsylvania post office

PHILADELPHIA (AP) – Customs agents seized more than two dozen gi-

ant beetles — some the size of a child's hand — from an overseas package after postal workers heard the insects making scratching noises.

The large bugs arrived last week from Taiwan at a post office in Mohnton, about 50 miles northwest of Philadelphia, in a box whose contents were labeled as toys, gifts and jellies, officials said Wednesday.

But the postmaster suspected the package contained live organisms and notified authorities, according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency. The package was sent to Philadelphia, where it was X-rayed and then opened.

"The specimens were some of the largest of their kind, and some of the largest I've ever seen, averaging five to six inches in diameter," John Plummer, an agency agriculture specialist, said in a statement Wednesday. "They are highly destructive insect pests that can cause extensive damage to fruit and vegetable crops, trees, shrubs and turf grasses."

In all, authorities found 26 Hercules, rhinoceros and Goliath beetles. It is illegal to ship live beetles into the United States without a permit from the Department of Agriculture.

Seven of the beetles were in containers labeled by gender, which means they could have been intended for breeding, customs agency spokesman Steve Sapp said Wednesday.

The sender and recipient have been identified, Sapp said. An investigation is under way, but no decision has been made whether to file charges, he said.

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from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

**Solution to yesterday's puzzle:**

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**ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY**

Where did they go?

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