

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Marne Soldiers prepare IA for battle

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

FOB KALSU – Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, conducted training with their IA counterparts at Patrol Base Red May 15 to prepare the IA Soldiers for joint patrols.

The Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, are stationed at PB Red along with the Iraqi company from 6th Battalion, 25th Brigade, 6th IA Division.

"We're currently training the IA in basic soldiering skills," said platoon leader and instructor 1st Lt. Christopher Domenico, adding the Soldiers are right out of the Iraqi basic training environment.

"They do know good skills. They can field-strip their AK-47s, they know basic room-clearing skills, and that's good for us since the training we do here builds on those skills," said Domenico, a native of Hollywood, Fla. "It's pretty much reinforcing what they know, then adding on another level of training."

Room clearing was the focus of the May 15 training, with the Company D Soldiers providing advice and acting as role players while the Iraqi Soldiers practiced the tasks. Working in teams, the IA Soldiers simulated a dismounted patrol and then practiced room-clearing procedures and detaining suspects. This is a skill members of the 1-30th Inf. Regt. have honed during their nearly year-long stay in the area of southern Baghdad Province they are

responsible for.

"Today was the final element of training. The next step is getting these guys out in the sector with us," Domenico said. "In the IA basic combat training they received some of that, but they haven't had the opportunity until now to get hands-on and understand how it all plays together in an actual mission."

When the 2nd BCT redeploys later



Sgt. David Turner

First Lieutenant Christopher Domenico, from Hollywood, Fla., a platoon leader with Co. D, 1-30th Inf. Regt., practices detainee operations with Iraqi Soldiers of the 6/25/6 IA, at PB Red. When the 2nd BCT redeploys this summer, IA forces will occupy PB Red.

this year, fewer Coalition forces will be stationed in the area and IA forces will take on the role of maintaining security. A crucial part of that mission, Domenico said, will be working with local Sons of Iraq groups, who help keep neighborhoods and routes safe. The SoI man checkpoints and keep weapons and insurgents from flowing back into the area.

"(The SoI) are very helpful toward us," said Sgt. Abraham Boughner, a Company D Soldier who helped with the training. "When they see (Coalition forces) and (IA) together it will help the transition."

Domenico said while the local SoI may not be as familiar with the new IA Soldiers, he hoped their common interests would help ease the transition.

"A good thing with the IA is that this is their country and their culture," Domenico said. "The way we're dealing with this is taking it in steps ... In this particular area, Arab Jabour and al-Buyatha, we're fortunate because the people want the IA here."

After the day's training was finished, the IA welcomed local leaders and members of the SoI for lunch. In the coming days, while on joint patrols with, the American Soldiers will introduce their counterparts to all of the area's SoI.

"It's important for them to start interacting. Then we can step back and strictly observe and manage,"

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Soldiers distribute donated school supplies

1ST LT. CHRIS BLOM

3-7TH INF. REGT., 4TH BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB ISKAN – Coalition forces and Iraqi Army Soldiers distributed school supplies to students and faculty May 14 at the al-Qunaitirah Primary School in Jundil, approximately 55 kilometers south of Baghdad.

Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, handed out pens and pencils, paper, erasers, art supplies, pencil sharpeners, folders, soccer balls, rulers, notebooks, book bags and other supplies.

The supplies were split into two categories, with some going directly to the students and others going to the teaching staff. Each student received basic supplies such as paper, pencils, pens, erasers, folders and rulers. Each of the teachers received enough school supplies to support their classes until the summer break.

The top eight students with the best grades received new soccer balls, which were given to them by the school headmaster.

“Not only did today’s drop help the kids and the school to improve the learning experience with the supplies they received, but it also highlights the ... Soldiers’ drive to help these folks out in any way they can,” said Capt. Eric Tisland, Company A com-



Courtesy photo

Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Co. A, 3-7th Inf. Regt., take a picture May 14 with students at the al-Qunaitirah Primary School in Jundil.

mander.

The Soldiers were able to collect all the school supplies with support from Family, friends and businesses back in the U.S. who have started an organization called “Mission Sergeant Soper.”

The mission was to contact and collect school supplies from local people, businesses and schools in the

United States. Once the supplies are collected they are sent to Soldiers in Iraq to distribute to schools and children.

“All the citizens in the area understand the importance of a good education, and it’s exciting to see the Soldiers coordinating with people back in the states to help the kids out with some basic supplies,” Tisland said.

BATTLE

From previous page

Domenico said.

Boughner was pleased with the

progress he made in working with the IA Soldiers.

“It’s like any other unit,” Boughner said. “When you first start out you don’t know anybody. You’ve got to build some

rapport with them.”

Domenico said he was confident they would work together well. “I see a bunch of motivated Soldiers who want to fight for their country.”

THE

Dog Face Daily

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Army commits to doing more for families of fallen

Message from Secretary of the Army

We are an extraordinary Army. General George Casey Jr. and I both know that as the Army fights two wars on separate fronts, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to our Soldiers and Army families. Just as we strengthened our programs to care for Army Families enduring the strains of war, our wounded and their families, we must also strengthen our programs to care for those families whose loved ones died on active duty. We owe them a debt we can never repay. Their needs are different and consequently require new strategies of support and caring.

Since February 2008, an advisory panel composed of Army agencies and surviving spouses has worked to develop a comprehensive program to support families of our fallen Soldiers. This program is called survivor outreach services (SOS). The advisory panel has recommended important changes in how we select, train, and employ our casualty assistance officers, and recommended adding



benefits advisors and financial counselors to help survivors navigate the complex array of benefits and entitlements. The advisory panel told us we must do a better job of preparing families earlier in the deployment process, addressing estate planning issues and ensuring that families have the long-term support they need until they are ready to move to the next phase of their life. While survivor outreach services is the Army's official means of providing support, in some of our communities, private organizations have stepped forward to help in this effort. We are grateful for their generosity and caring support. Gen. Casey and I are committed to putting this improved system in place as soon as possible.

We must all be more supportive of surviving spouses and their children suffering the loss of their husbands and wives, sons and daughters, and mothers and fathers. To create that level of caring, inclusion, and support, we hold ourselves--officer and enlisted, military and civilian--accountable for ensuring our surviving family members are treated as they should be. One way we will demonstrate that support, will be to extend the same level of priority of services to survivors that warriors in transition receive. We must make it clear to all our service providers, military and civilian alike, that warriors in transition and survivors have the same top priority.

Those families whose Soldier has paid the ultimate price for our nation's freedom deserve our respect and gratitude and the very best that our great country can provide. We owe this to them, and we must deliver. I am totally committed to doing so.

The Honorable Pete Geren

Safety Thought of the Day

Electrical Safety

- Most locally purchased extension cords and power strips do not meet U.S. standards and can easily be overloaded.
- Avoid plugging appliances with heating elements into extension cords or power strips.
- Periodic electrical inspections should include:
 - A visual check of electrical cords, outlets, and power strips for signs of overheating, arcing, and cut or frayed wires.
 - A serviceable fire extinguisher is in close proximity to all fire hazards.
- Electrical installations and repairs are best made by certified electricians.
- Live exposed wires carry a minimum

of 220 volts and should be fully concealed or covered to avoid inadvertent contact.



File photo

Headline Highlights

Cat, mouse cause blackout; monks release debut album

Game of cat and mouse blacks out Albanian capital

TIRANA (Reuters) – A cat chasing a mouse in Tirana's main power station caused a 72-hour blackout across parts of the Albanian capital, the electricity company said on Friday.

"A cat and a mouse ran into the high-voltage cables," a company spokeswoman said, showing pictures of the electrocuted animals. "We took pictures because we've never had anything like this."

Albanians complain bitterly about the power cuts that have plagued them for decades, and are mostly blamed on drought and the dilapidation of the communist-era grid. Most homes and shops in Tirana rely on petrol generators.

Austria's singing monks hail miracle debut album

HEILIGENKREUZ, Austria (Reuters) – Monks in Austria hailed a "miracle" on Friday as they released an album of Gregorian chants under the same record label as Amy Winehouse and Eminem.

The Cistercian monks were signed up by Universal Music – beating more than 200 entries from around the world – after they sent in a YouTube video in response to its international advertisement for a choir.

"I did not even know what Universal Music was. For us it is like a miracle," said the order's Father Karl as the CD "Chant - Music for Paradise" went on sale in Germany and Austria ahead of a wider

international release.

It features 17 monks, mainly from Germany and Austria with one from Sri Lanka. "They sing like angels," said Father Karl, who is not on the recording.

Dickon Stainer of Universal Music sees "enormous potential" for the disc, not least since the Xbox space-age game "Halo", which has sold more than 16 million copies worldwide, uses Gregorian chant in its main soundtrack.

The music of the Heiligenkreuz (Holy Cross) Foundation, which dates from the 12th century, even has papal blessing. Pope Benedict enjoyed it during a 2007 visit to the monastery, 30 km (20 miles) southwest of Vienna.

"He sank into meditation in front of everyone as the choir sang," said the order's abbot, Gregor Henckel Donnersmarck.

Traditionally sung by choirs of men and boys since the early Middle Ages, the Gregorian chant is one of the oldest known forms of written music. It gets its name from Pope Gregory the Great, who died in 604 A.D.

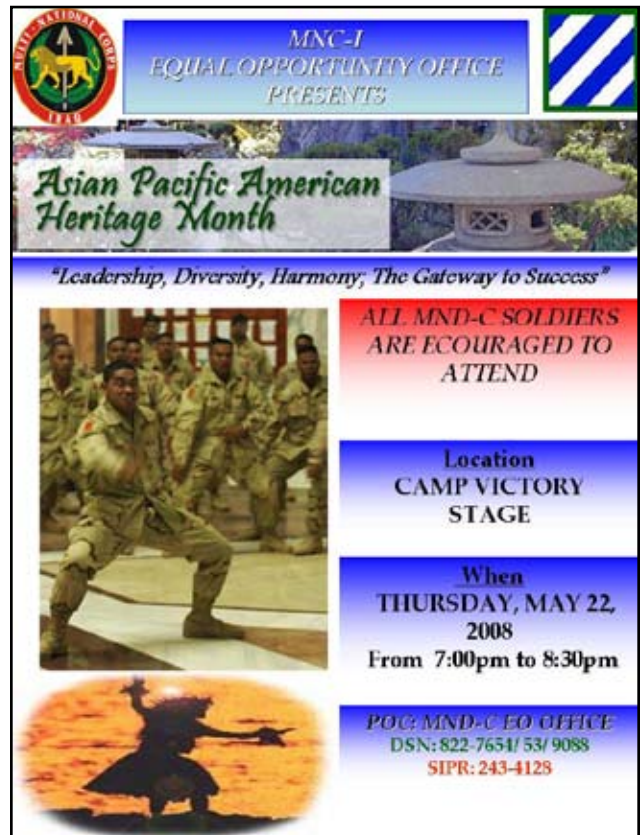
Profits from the CD will go towards training for priests. The abbot sounded a note of concern at the idea of fan clubs. "This is

our prayer. We are not in show business," he said.

But some monks laugh at the prospect of female fans. "If groupies want to come, we will let them know we sing each morning at 5:15," said Father Karl.

Some 115,000 people have seen the YouTube video.

"Young people come to us and say: 'That's cool...' (but) we are certainly not a boy band and we are not going on tour," he added.



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S u d o k u

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to Saturday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY

Who's in charge?

mih-noo il-mess-ool?