

Medical aid heals wounds of war

SGT. DANIEL T. WEST
214TH FB

FOB DELTA – Coalition forces provided medical care and supplies to more than 200 people during a medical assistance visit in the Zuwarijat district of al-Kut, Iraq, May 19.

Medical care was provided by local Iraqi doctors, Georgian doctors from the 1st Georgian Infantry Brigade, a Salvadoran doctor and dentist, along with paramedics from the Cuscatlan Battalion and medics from Company C, 26th Brigade Support Battalion, from Fort Stewart, Ga.

Treated patients received medication for their conditions and basic hygiene supplies.

Iraqi Security Forces and Soldiers of the 511th Military Police Company, from Fort Drum, N.Y., provided security.

The 511th MP Co. medics also gave a hand with the MEDAV.

It brought medical aid to people who are otherwise too poor to afford care and



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Second Lieutenant Sarah Dreyfus, with Co. C, 26th BSB, from Ft. Stewart, Ga., escorts patients to see a Salvadoran doctor during a medical assistance mission in the Zuwarijat district of al-Kut, Iraq.

provided an opportunity for Coalition and Iraqi doctors to work side-by-side, said Capt. Hayder Ali Adnan, an Iraqi Policeman.

“It is difficult to put together that big

of an operation,” said Sgt. Gopal Singh, one of the pre-screening medics, and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the

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Piledriver comes to an end, projects continue

SGT. 1ST CLASS KERENSA HARDY
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

CAMP STRIKER – Operation Marne Piledriver kicked off in earnest April 15 with an Iraqi Army-led air assault and clearing operations in the Mahmudiyah

“A temporal fix is not what this country needs; it needs people engaged in the process.”

– Col. Dominic Caraccilo
3 BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT)

area, about 26 kilometers south of Baghdad.

Although the IA has led air assaults in the past, this particular mission showcased its abilities.

“This ... showed that Iraqis are securing the area, ridding it of the last bastion of [al-Qaeda in Iraq] and simultaneously injected projects, both US- and Iraqi-funded, such as clean water, agricultural and other business opportunities and [aimed] to grow the trust in Iraqi Security Forces,” said Col. Dominic Caraccilo, commander of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Piledriver is the first major operation initiated by Task Force Marne that targeted capacity building throughout the

Mahmudiyah Qada.

From refurbishing schools, clinics and water treatment facilities to rejuvenating the poultry and fish industries, the operation has yielded several projects to improve quality of life for Iraqis on many fronts.

“I think [the Iraqis have] benefited a lot, and I think they’re only seeing the beginning of the benefits,” said Vince Valle, team leader for the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team.

“The idea is to help them get some self-sustaining projects that will generate economic activity and possibly ... generate jobs. We are seeing that already, and we’ll see that a lot more as the activities

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develop,” he added.

While all the capacity-building projects provide essential services to the local populace, Caraccilo said the most critical improvement is providing clean water to the people of the qada.

“If you have clean water you can have just about anything; it’s the baseline for all needs,” Caraccilo said. “We recognize that and, more importantly, the [Government of Iraq] in this qada recognizes that. That’s why they’re funding the Qaqa Water Treatment Plant which provides 40 percent of the water to the entire qada.”

Plans are still in progress to run a nine-kilometer pipe from the Mushada Water Treatment Plant, which will provide another 30 percent of the qada’s water supply to Mahmudiyah. Once the water projects are complete, Caraccilo said 85 percent of the qada will have clean water.

“Water is important even when it comes to produce or livestock, as well as human beings,” said Lt. Col. Linda Capobianco, deputy team leader of the Baghdad-4 ePRT attached to 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT).

Almost as important as the projects themselves, Caraccilo said it is necessary to have GoI and local agencies involved in the process from start to finish. So delays, like the start of the water pipe, are okay because it means the government is working through how to make it happen.

“It does no good for us to just come to the rescue and give them clean water. We can do that, but it’s a temporal fix,” Caraccilo said. “A temporal fix is not what this country needs; it needs people engaged in the process.”

It’s easy to get frustrated when solutions are not immediately evident, but



Pvt. Christopher McKenna

Iraqi Army Soldiers and Soldiers with 3rd Platoon, Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT), travel together through fields during a clearance operation that kicked off Operation Marne Piledriver.

Caraccilo said these growing pains are necessary.

“Sometimes the means are more important than the ends,” he said. “As long as [the government] is engaging and talking to [others in] its hierarchal structure, having meetings, debates ... I have no doubt they will eventually lay that pipe.

“The government processes ... have to be allowed to take their course,” he said, adding that he is convinced the process will improve every time. “They’ll get better and better at what they do and provide essential services to the people and then the timeline will shorten every time.”

In addition to the water-improvement initiatives, Operation Marne Piledriver resulted in the delivery of two ambulances to the Lutfiyah Medical Clinic, the reopening of the Yusifiyah Wholesale Market which had been closed since 2004, the establishment of two radio stations in Mahmudiyah and Yusifiyah to entertain and inform local citizens and the grand opening of the Yusifiyah Iraqi Police Station.

The purchase of 95,000 eggs of Dutch descent has re-energized the poultry industry, which had been dormant for several years.

Other projects include 16 fish farms that have been identified for refurbishment; 50 solar-powered pumps have been ordered to oxygenate the water for the fish ponds. Work on the Yusifiyah power substation is almost 80 percent complete. Training for nahia and qada council members is ongoing.

“A lot of things didn’t come to conclusion during the operation but they will continue to go on and a lot of them will lead to other projects,” Capobianco said.

Construction of a greenhouse is underway, with plans for three more in the future. Cell phone towers and improvements to produce chillers, slaughterhouses, feed mills and poultry houses are also on the horizon. Additionally, billboards are being placed along the main supply routes that provide information on Iraqi Security Forces and the GoI.

Caraccilo said all these efforts mesh to show the Mahmudiyah Qada can flourish on its own.

THE Dog Face Daily

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7th Sustainment Brigade
793rd Military Police Battalion
354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MEDICAL: CF brings care to those who cannot afford it.

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Company C element. "There was a wide variety of conditions sent through, and the Coalition doctors really came together to treat them."

Singh's impression of the people was one of hope.

"It didn't matter what they'd been told before," he said. "They thought we could help them. They were very friendly, and even when we couldn't help, they weren't hostile. One old gentleman even reached in to where I was handing out medicine and gave me a hug and a kiss on the cheek."

The Zuwarijat district has not always been so welcoming, though.

"Historically, it was a Jaysh al-Mahdi stronghold," said Maj. Stacy Gerber, 214th Fires Brigade civil and military operations officer. "Iraqi Security Forces recently opened three security stations there, reaching out to



Sgt. Daniel T. West

Lieutenant Fernando Alfaro Iraheta, a doctor with the Salvadoran Cuscatlan Battalion, examines a patient during a medical assistance mission in the Zuwarijat district of al-Kut, Iraq.

residents who had been threatened by criminal elements and neglected by the Government of Iraq."

Since entering the area, ISF have seen a steady growth in receptiveness to their presence from the local population.

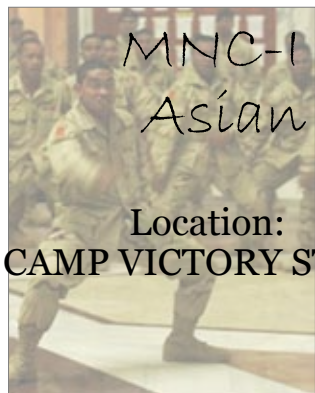
Adnan said at first citizens were afraid, but soon they saw how the ISF was securing their area and began bringing them water, tea and food.

"Today's MEDAV shows the capability for Iraqi Security Forces, Coalition forces and the Government of Iraq to enter a district and provide needed care to the residents," Gerber said. "No attacks were made against our forces today."

Singh agreed to the event success.

"Firsthand, this was the most amazing thing I've seen," Singh said. "Today, we couldn't tell that

this had been a hostile area. If this is what it takes to get the Iraqi infrastructure going, I'll do as many I need to do."



MNC-1 Equal Opportunity Office presents
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Location:
CAMP VICTORY STAGE

When:
THURSDAY,
MAY 22, 2008
From 7:00pm to 8:30pm

POC:
MND-C EO OFFICE
DSN: 822-7654/53/9088
SIPR: 243-4128

All MND-C Soldiers are encouraged to attend

Safety Thought of the Day

Leader's Risk Assessment of Subordinates - Tool

Some Key indicators of possible at risk Soldiers:

- Is the individual a male age 25 or under?
- Experienced two or more at-fault accidents (vehicle or non-vehicle, on or off duty) or traffic citations (DUI, speeding, cell phone use, seatbelts, reckless driving, etc.) in the past 12 months?
- Does the individual display any of the below examples:
 - Is not readily available to give guidance.
 - Does not have sufficient technical

knowledge, experience or management ability to properly supervise.

- Tolerates below-standard performance.
- Rarely makes on-the-spot corrections.
- Is reluctant to take disciplinary action.
- Allows cutting corners to get a job done.
- Soldier has not been properly trained to perform their current job tasks, which could result in an accident.
- Does the individual frequently perform tasks for which written task conditions standards or procedures do not exist, are not clear or are not practical?

Headline Highlights

Ex-Marine speared; food, flirt guide; donkey does time

Photographer speared by javelin at Utah track meet

PROVO, Utah (AP) — A newspaper photographer got a little too close to the action at the state high school track championships — and was speared through the leg by a javelin.

Ryan McGeeney of the Standard-Examiner was spared serious injury in Saturday's mishap, and even managed to snap a photo of his speared leg while others worked to help him.

"If I didn't, it would probably be my editor's first question when I got back," McGeeney said later.

The 33-year-old McGeeney, an ex-Marine who spent six months in Afghanistan, was taking pictures of the discus event and apparently wandered into off-limits area set aside for the javelin throw.

Striking just below the knee, the javelin tip went through the skin and emerged on the other side of his leg.

"It wasn't real painful. ... I was very lucky in that it didn't hit any blood vessels, nerves, ligaments or tendons," McGeeney said.

Much of the javelin was cut off at the scene. The piece in McGeeney's leg was removed at a hospital, and he received 13 stitches.

The javelin was thrown by Anthony Miles, a Provo High School student who said when he saw what had happened, "my heart just stopped."

"One of the first things that came to my mind was, 'Good thing we brought a second javelin,'" Miles' coach, Richard

Vance, said Monday. He said Miles was "in a little bit of shock," but he assured the athlete that it was not his fault.

With a subsequent throw, Miles went on to win the state title in javelin for teams in Provo High's size classification, 4-A.

Dialect guide to assist Euro 2008 fans on food and flirting

VIENNA (Reuters) — A free guide to be distributed around Vienna to soccer fans visiting for Euro 2008 will advise them how to order Austrian cuisine, flirt with local women, and find their way to the stadium in the thick local dialect.

Essential phrases such as "Ham Se an Kaiserschmoan mit Zwetschnroesta?", "Do you have a sliced sugared pancake with plum compote?" or "Fia mi bitte no a Soizguakn", "another gherkin for me please", are listed with English and German translations.

Greetings include "Moagn", "Good morning", and "Kuess die Hand, gnae Frau", the phrase to be uttered when kissing a woman's hand at a first meeting -- a traditional Austrian gesture.

Vocabulary is also provided for use at such Vienna institutions as the sausage stand and the coffee house.

For an initial approach to a member of the opposite sex, the book suggests: "Servas, fescche Katz", literally "greetings, hot kitten" but translated as "Hello princess".

The guide is produced by German consumer goods firm Henkel, which says

it has had close ties with Vienna for 80 years. The June 7-29 European championship is being staged in Austria and Switzerland.

South Mexican donkey jailed for ornery behavior

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico (AP) — A donkey is doing time in southern Mexico for assault and battery.

The animal was locked up at a local jail that normally holds people for public drunkenness and other disturbances after it bit and kicked two men near a ranch in Chiapas state, police said Monday.

Officer Sinar Gomez said the donkey will remain behind bars until its owner agrees to pay the men's medical bills.

"Around here, if someone commits a crime they are jailed," Gomez said — "no matter who they are."

The owner, Mauro Gutierrez, told The Associated Press he would try to reach a friendly arrangement to pay the men's bills, estimated at US\$420 (euro270).

The victims said the donkey bit Genaro Vazquez, 63, in the chest on Sunday and then kicked 52-year-old Andres Hernandez as he tried to come to the rescue, fracturing his ankle.

"All of a sudden, the animal was on top of us like it was rabid," Hernandez said.

Police said it took a half-dozen men to control the enraged burro.

Chiapas police have thrown animals in the slammer before, including a bull that devoured corn crops and destroyed two wooden vending stands in March.

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC QUESTION OF THE DAY

Can you help me find a...?

teg-dar it-sah-ed-nee il-geh...?