

THE Dog Face Daily

www.taskforcemarne.com

Volume 1, Issue 360

May 23, 2008

Serving Task Force Marne

2nd Brigade lets facts tell its story of success

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

FOB KALSU – The numbers only begin to tell the story: 5,943 houses cleared, 1,433 suspects detained, 1,241 small-arms fire engagements, 577 weapons caches found and 532 improvised explosive devices safely destroyed.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, is already busy with the task of preparing for the journey home. As the last of the “surge brigades,” arriving in the south Baghdad area last June, 2nd BCT Soldiers had a difficult but important mission to fulfill. Now, as they prepare to hand the torch to those who will continue the mission, they can look back and see a place not only made safer, but ready to reap the benefits of security.

“When we entered [the area], our

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Courtesy photo

A 1-30th Inf. Regt. Soldier patrols southern Arab Jabour during Operation Marne Thunderbolt. Marne Thunderbolt was the last major kinetic operation against al-Qaeda in Arab Jabour.

Soldiers at all levels must understand, respect local culture

When I took the helm of the Multi-National-Corps in February, I issued a personal memorandum to each member of the Corps emphasizing the importance of demonstrating inspired leadership. As highlighted then, inspired leadership means doing the right thing at all times, to include treating our Iraqi hosts and partners with the utmost dignity and respect. Unfortunately, a recent, isolated incident involving the treatment of the Quran has threatened to undermine this message of commitment to the Iraqi people. Let me be clear: strict respect for local customs, traditions, and cultural and religious observances is the standard to which I hold every MNC-I Soldier and the commanders who lead them. Failure is unacceptable.

Leaders at all levels must continue

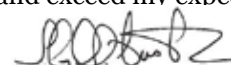


been the hallmark of our efforts over the past 5 years. As past experiences have confirmed, snap decisions made by a few can have a lasting operational and strategic impact. Commanders at all levels must emphasize this fact and take the necessary steps – to include further education of our troops if required – to ensure that our words and

to emphasize that our effectiveness as warriors greatly depends on our everyday actions and attitudes. We must be the ambassadors to the spirit of selflessness and sacrifice for the Iraqi people which have

actions reflect absolute respect for the local values.

You are doing tremendous work in the most challenging military environment on earth. The many positive results your efforts are generating are historic and unprecedented. As you continue each day to win the battles that win the war, never forget that demonstrating inspired leadership is the lynchpin for ultimate success. Our Soldiers doing the right thing at all times, to include honoring and respecting the local culture, is my absolute expectation. I remain confident in your unmatched ability and professionalism to meet and exceed my expectations.


LLOYD J. AUSTIN III
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

Government of Iraq works to improve life in Wasit

SGT. DANIEL T. WEST
214TH FB

FOB DELTA – The Government of Iraq is undertaking a number of projects in Wasit Province to improve quality of life and provide jobs for citizens.

Two of the projects focus on the Zuwarijat district of al-Kut.

Though once a militia stronghold considered dangerous for Coalition forces, the district improved dramatically after Iraqi Security Forces established their presence. The ISF established security stations in Zuwarijat for the first time in an Iraqi-planned and led operation April 29.

With the return of security, GoI can now focus on improving the quality of life for residents, said Maj. Gen. Hannin al-Ameer, provincial director of police in a town hall meeting in al-Kut May 21.

The first projects the GoI will undertake include reopening a local clinic and restoring schools, al-Ameer said. However, he cautioned, the projects depend on maintained security.

In addition to improvements in Zuwarijat, the GoI has begun work to bring a \$6 million indoor fish and meat market to the town of al-Kut.

The market is part of a large-scale development project funded by a combination of Iraqi and Coalition funds

that will include a vegetable and produce market and a meat processing plant, said Roberto Bran, provincial program manager for the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Local government will gain experience by managing the market and economics of the area, while the economy will benefit from an increase in local business, Bran said.

Through this, Bran said, civil leaders can learn to cooperate and take their destiny into their own hands, promoting security in order to further their growth plans. In addition, businesses will increase security by providing jobs and opportunities to people who would have none otherwise, he said.

Soldiers receive gift of golf

1ST LT. WILLIAM PERDUE

1ST LT. TRAVIS HAYES

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

FOB ISKAN – Soldiers stationed here received a pallet of golf gear May 20 from golf enthusiast military veterans back in the States.

The veterans donated the “gift of golf” – which included clubs, balls and bags – after reading an article written by 1st Lt. Matthew Setters with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Setters, from Portsmouth, Ohio, wrote the article in response to one written by Butch Harmon – one of the world’s best known golf instructors – on “Operation Links,” a Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored event.

Part of Harmon’s article read, “I spent

Thanksgiving week in Iraq with Tom Watson, David Feherty, Tom Lehman, Howard Twitty and Joe Inman. We went to 10 U.S. military bases, meeting our troops, talking golf, hearing about their lives and their work over there. What an amazing group of young men and women we have in our military today.”

In his own article to Golf Digest, Setters wrote about Soldiers at FOB Iskan working on their game of golf while being deployed. Setters said he didn’t want anything more than to publish the story of 3-7th Inf. Regt. Soldiers.

However, his entry received several readers’ responses.

Three readers in particular paid extra attention to the article. Terry and Brandon Kasen, veterans, got together with



Spc. Tiffany Dusterhoff

First Lieutenant Matthew Setters, with HHC, 3-7th Inf. Regt., unloads golf gear at FOB Iskan. He received the equipment as a gift from military veteran golf enthusiasts in the States.

family and friends to donate a surplus of golfing supplies to the Soldiers. Rich Elliot, of St. Simons Island, Ga., a Vietnam veteran, also contributed to the package of golfing supplies. Elliot was on his

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THE Dog Face Daily

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Demonstrating Inspired Leadership vital to success

Demonstrating inspired leadership is vital to our success in Iraq. Inspired leadership includes: doing what is right when no one is watching, embodying the warrior ethos, upholding honor, and respecting the dignity and human rights of every person. The highest ethical standards must guide our actions at all times and at all places, including on the battlefield. Incidents in our past have caused some to question whether we treat Iraqi civilians and detainees with dignity and respect. There should be no doubt. As we reach this vital juncture in our mission, our Warrior Ethos – our commitment to the moral and ethical standards of our profession of arms in a democratic society – is an important strength we enjoy over a dishonorable and savage enemy.

Each of you know that unethical behavior and the undisciplined use of force reduces our effectiveness and undercuts the justness of our cause. Treating civilians and detainees with dignity and respect is a necessary


component of the offensive mindset we need to win. Unethical behavior does nothing but detract from our efforts and aid the enemy.

I know our labors to bring security and freedom to the people of Iraq, in this complex and dangerous environment, are stressful and often frustrating. Nevertheless, our advantage over the enemy springs from our moral, physical, emotional, and military superiority. Indeed, it is our moral compass that separates us from an enemy that engages in indiscriminate attacks against unarmed and defenseless civilians in a quest to oppress the populace. Any similar unethical behavior on our part, no matter how minor, destroys our legitimacy and needlessly creates new enemies within the populace. The enemy would like nothing



more than for us to abandon our Warrior Ethos. They are doing everything within their power to tempt you into doing so. We can never give in and stoop to their level.

Every day we are making significant progress toward our goal of a free and stable Iraq. I am incredibly proud to take the helm of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq. As you maintain the moral high ground in this demanding environment, I remind you that our conscience, family, friends, and legal codes demand nothing less. Never lose sight of the fact our societies' moral character is the ultimate source of our strength. I cannot, and will never accept behavior which is legally, morally, or ethically questionable. The moral superiority and credibility of your nations and their armed forces is too valuable a commodity to squander.


LLOYD J. AUSTIN III
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

GOLF

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way to be a part of the Professional Golfers Association of America tour before being drafted in the 1960s.

"I just want to thank all the golf patrons for their support," Setters said. "I know the Soldiers of 3-7th will greatly

appreciate the equipment. Upon receiving the equipment, the MWR is now going to sponsor a driving range for the Soldiers here on FOB Iskan."

So as the pallet full of golf gear arrived, Setters, who while in high school received several scholarships to Division III schools to play golf, hoped the game of golf will become a new outlet for Sol-

diers on the FOB.

With the new gear available, Setters is now working on a "course" so Soldiers can enhance their golf skills.

Prior to receiving his commission into the Army, Setters worked as the assistant pro at a golf course in Nicholasville, Ky., while attending the University of Kentucky.

Safety Thought of the Day

Headspace and Timing

- Improper headspace and timing can cause malfunctions, damage to the weapon, and injury to personnel.
- Ensure personnel are trained in this procedure.
- Do not use headspace and timing gauges if they are bent, rusted or pitted.
- If the timing nut can be easily turned with one finger or it doesn't click as you move it, the nut's spring is too weak and it won't hold timing. Get the spring replaced.
- If the spring can't hold the barrel in place, the barrel turns during firing and headspace is lost.
- Test the spring by setting the correct headspace and then try to unscrew the barrel.

If the barrel turns, the spring is weak or loose or the barrel locking lugs may be worn.

- If the barrel and barrel extension threads are chipped or burred, it will be difficult to screw in the barrel. Even worse, you may think you've screwed in the barrel when you haven't. That means bad headspace. Stone any chips or burrs until they're smooth.
- Always set and check Headspace & Timing IAW TM 9-1005-213-10, June 2001.
- For additional requirements see TACOM Safety of Use Message 06-008 dated 13 Dec 05.
- Safety glasses, hearing protection, and protective clothing will be worn when repairing, firing, or cleaning weapon.

SURGE

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task was to go in and stay,” said 2nd BCT commander Col. Terry Ferrell. “We were to go in and block accelerants from entering Baghdad, protect the population and defeat the sectarian violence that was going on in the area.”

In the summer of 2007, the area south of Baghdad on the west bank of the Tigris River was considered one of the most dangerous places in all of Iraq. The majority-Sunni population had largely boycotted the 2005 elections, and soon began to feel the effects brought by lack of government representation. In addition to essential services such as clean water and electricity, citizens clearly needed security.

“When 2nd BCT first assumed control of the Spartan (2nd BCT) operating environment in June 2007, the brigade was faced with a unique and challenging situation,” said Capt. Lauren Glaze, 2nd BCT provost marshal. “The only Iraqi Security Force present in the brigade OE was an undermanned and underequipped Iraqi Army battalion, stretched thinly across a quarter of the area,”

Sectarian strife and rumors of ISF targeting and killing Sunnis led many to distrust the largely-Shia army and police, Glaze said.

“What developed was really a Petri dish for al-Qaeda to grow,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth Adgie, commander of 1-30th Inf. Regt., a mechanized infantry battalion.

Coalition forces were attacked 95 times in the first two weeks, as they pushed into areas they had not been since 2003. After establishing Patrol Base Murray just 16 kilometers south of Baghdad, Soldiers of the 1-30th Inf. Regt. began moving south and east to secure the area along the banks of the Tigris River called Arab Jabour; because AQI had firmly established a presence there, it was not easy.

“What we discovered was a well-built, elaborate, defensive belt,” said Ferrell, a native of Huntington W.Va.

Improvised explosive devices, many of them buried deep, made travel in the area difficult. A combination of air assaults and ground strikes enabled the Soldiers to capture and hold territory from al-Buaytha down the banks

of the Tigris to Sayafiyah.

“From June 16 until the first of February of this year, we were in full-scale kinetic operations,” Ferrell said. “Simultaneously, we were doing humanitarian assistance and working to build local governance.”

As Coalition forces secured the area, citizens came to realize the benefits of working with them.

One of the key elements to success



Courtesy photo

Soldiers from 5-7th Cav. Regt. entered the Sayafiyah area in mid-January. The squadron spent its first year of its tour in al-Anbar province fighting al-Qaeda, then expelling AQI from southern Arab Jabour by the end of its tour.

in holding the newly-gained areas was the formation of the Sons of Iraq, a volunteer security force of Iraqi citizens initially formed to guard important infrastructure such as roads and power stations. Coalition forces trained and worked with the SoI to secure their neighborhoods and help oust AQI, Glaze said.

“The training included classes on the SoI role in securing the community, basic first aid, basic self-defense tactics, the use of force and an overview of basic security principles,” Glaze said. “As a result, the SoI received the information they needed to successfully assist in removing hundreds of al-Qaeda, caches and IEDs from the battlefield.”

An important turning point came in November, Ferrell said.

“We had a battle in Hawr Rajab in November, on Thanksgiving Day, when al-Qaeda attacked to try and take back the city. We stood arm-in-arm; you had Coalition, ISF, SoI. You had Sunnis and Shia banding together and you could not tell anyone apart,” he said. “From that day forward, I’ve always highlighted that one battle, when they were standing there as brothers

to take care of one another.”

Another key event was Operation Marne Thunderbolt, intended to deny al-Qaeda safe havens in the area.

“Just as recently as January, we dropped over 40,000 pounds of ordnance as we fought down the southeast in our area of operations, finalizing one of the last major kinetic operations,” Ferrell said.

Sons of Iraq helped Coalition forces identify safe houses, weapons caches and IEDs, which in some cases were eliminated with air strikes. Between January 10 and 20, more than 100,000 pounds of bombs were dropped in the Arab Jabour area by Coalition aircraft.

Adgie, a National Park, N.J. native, marked Jan. 22 as the date when AQI left Arab Jabour. In the past four months, SoI membership in the Spartan AO has grown to 5,400, greater than the number of Coalition forces and IA in the area combined. Their involvement, Adgie said, has kept AQI from returning.

The next step toward making security sustainable in the area was to increase the amount of ISF in the area, particularly the Iraqi Police.

“In September 2007, the Governor of Baghdad visited Arab Jabour and promised the local leadership and Coalition forces that Arab Jabour would have an IP station by mid-2008,” said Glaze, from Woodbridge, Va.

“After his visit we noticed an obvious change in the locals’ opinion of the ISF, specifically towards the IP. Over 300 SoI came forward and said they wanted to go through the IP recruiting process,” Glaze said.

The police station is currently under construction.

“The ground has been broken and they are in the process of building the structure,” Ferrell said.

Even before IP forces could be established in the area, IA forces began to work alongside their Coalition counterparts, living and conducting operations alongside them. Two IA battalions now conduct patrols with Coalition forces and work with the SoI to maintain security.

“There are more hard days along the way,” Ferrell said. “We have to work to build the ISF, we have to continue to build confidence in the ISF, in the progress they are making.”