

Coalition forces care for Obeidi tribe

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

FOB KALSU – Members of the Obeidi tribe in Maderiyah, 25 kilometers south of Baghdad, have always relied on one another through difficult times.

Now, thanks to improved security, the tribe can also rely on Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, for humanitarian assistance.

Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Battery B, 1-9th FA, met with an Obeidi woman May 21 to coordinate treatment options for burns she suffered during a mortar attack aimed at Coalition forces.

Reshi Hadey Afeiy was cooking in her home last December when a mortar landed near her home. The explosion and shockwave caused the oil she was cooking with to spill all over her upper body, leaving her with second- and third-degree burns from her waist up to the top of her skull, said Sgt. Ian Loud, 1st Platoon medic.



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Sergeant Ian Loud (right), platoon medic for 1st Plt., Btry. B, 1-9th FA, discusses treatment options with a family friend of Reshi Hadey Afeiy in her home. Afeiy suffered severe burns to her upper body as a result of an al-Qaeda mortar attack.

Soldiers of 1st Platoon found her during a presence patrol through the area to remove al-Qaeda remnants.

Loud, a native of Hanford, Calif., said although she received some surgery on her face in Taji, Afeiy still needs much work to recover from her injuries.

Even though Coalition forces were

not responsible in any way for her injuries, Cpl. Adam Peak, vehicle commander in 1st Platoon, said helping her was the right thing to do.

Now, Loud, Sgt. Kyle Nygaard and Sgt. Mark Loper all contributed some of their own money to buy Vaseline cans to help soothe her injuries.

Last September, Afeiy's 7-year-old cousin, Faathsid Saad Adeah was also injured by an al-Qaeda mortar attack. Adeah was playing in her yard with her cousins when shrapnel from a mortar struck her in the stomach. Unable to help her, Adeah's father rushed her to the front gate of Joint Security Site W1, located nearby.

Nygaard, 1st Platoon sergeant, said the incident struck a deep cord with him, having a 4-year-old himself named Aiden.

His fatherly instinct kicked in, said the Houston native. Likewise, the desire to help rose in other Soldiers,

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Aviation unit flies 200th air assault mission in Iraq

SGT. 1ST CLASS THOMAS MILLS
3RD CAB

CAMP STRIKER – As grand accomplishments go, Task Force Marne's Combat Aviation Brigade's 200th combat air assault mission during their current deployment to Iraq went off with as little fanfare as possible.

An uneventful mission is just fine with the pilots of 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, the CAB, 3rd Infantry Division's air assault unit.

"For us it went exactly as planned," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Nigel Huebscher, the mission's flight lead. "We hit the 'time on target,' spot on the [landing zone] and performed the mission as close to flawlessly as we can."

The first 12 months of the 3rd CAB's 15-month deployment in Multi-National Division – Center has seen many records knocked down; total flight hours of 100,000 and fuel pumped of more than 10 million gallons, to name a couple. Most of these records are based on

the operational tempo of the 3rd CAB, meaning the amount of missions flown every day and night.

During the unit's deployment to Iraq in 2005, the 4-3rd Avn. Regt. executed more than 110 air assault missions in their first 12 months, said Capt. Conor Stilwell, assistant operations officer.

Based on the amount of air assault missions during this deployment, Huebscher said, the 4-3rd Avn. Regt.

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who worked to stabilize the girl and arrange helicopter transportation to the International Zone for surgery.

Now, eight months later, Adeah is out playing with her family and the only proof of the incident is a vertical scar on her stomach.

This success is what 1st Platoon Soldiers hope for Afeiy. Eventually, they hope to get her transferred to the al-Kendu Hospital in Baghdad,

where she can get specialized treatment, Peak said, a native of New Boston, N.H.

These relationships will continue to strengthen as Soldiers continue to provide her with medicine, document her injuries and provide her with treatment from a female physician with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Although a small token, these efforts have gone a long way toward building relations with the local pop-

ulation, Peak said.

These Soldiers have also vowed to rid the area of al-Qaeda so they cannot injure any more people.

Aggressive targeting of al-Qaeda sympathizers, removal of insurgent weapon caches, daily patrols and recruiting local citizens into the Sons of Iraq program have all increased in the past month to drive out the last remnants of terrorists and keep them from migrating back.

"Our mission now is to keep the peace," Nygaard said.

Soldiers provide communications, support

SGT. DANIEL T. WEST
214TH FB

FOB DELTA – Good communication is a critical component to the success of any military operation. Maintaining communications between Coalition forces stationed in Wasit Province proved a great challenge for Soldiers of the 214th Fires Brigade's S-6 section here.

"There are many cultural differences ... They just don't do things the same way. Our goal is to find a way to support their mission," said Capt. Joshua Carlson, a Tacoma, Wash., native and the officer in charge of the section.

The S-6 section manages communications for FOB Delta and Coalition forces throughout Wasit Province in addition to supporting the strategic expansion of communications for future growth here.

The S-6 made sure all units under their care, both Coalition and American, had the equipment and support necessary to successfully complete

their mission, said Staff Sgt. Jose Flores, from Bartow, Fla., noncommissioned officer in charge of the section. This, also, proved challenging.

"Many couldn't bring all the equipment they needed, so they came to the S-6," he said. "We try to get them up to speed."

With so much work to do, Spc. Brandon Grider, a native of Birmingham, Ala., automation chief in the section, estimated the workload would need a staff of 20, but instead they had only five. Still, he said they didn't let it prevent them from completing their mission.

"It's been pretty rough," he said. "Still, you have to just get up and do it. The job's got to get done."

Soldiers of the S-6 do whatever they can to make their heavy workload more enjoyable. For example, as policy, anyone bringing a problem to their desk must take two shots with a foam basketball into a hoop across the room – a feat only accomplished by



Sgt. Daniel T. West
Specialist Brandon Grider works for the 214th FB S-6 on a piece of communications security equipment at FOB Delta.

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THE Dog Face Daily

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3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Abn. Division (Assault)
4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division
214th Fires Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
793rd Military Police Battalion
354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

AVIATION: TF Marne completes grand accomplishment

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has achieved an operating standard that promotes uneventful, successful missions.

"To go along with that, the people we have flying know what they need to do to get the mission done," he said.

Many of the 4-3rd Avn. Regt. pilots and crewmembers were deployed to Iraq in 2005 and many were assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, bringing a wealth of experience to the fight, Stilwell said.

Along with the experience, new systems and technologies are in place for this deployment, making execution of air assault missions much easier.

"I would say that all the assets we have available to us do very much to streamline the process and allow us to maximize our time, and gives us time to better prepare," Huebscher said.

Those assets include advances in communication, which have made planning much easier, Stilwell said. The more efficient communication, including holding meetings with visual references such as maps online over a



Courtesy photo

A Blackhawk helicopter with 4-3rd Avn. Regt. transports troops on an air assault mission near Baghdad.

secure network, has allowed the unit to plan and execute several missions at the same time. Sometimes, Stilwell said, the calendar will be stacked with concurrent missions in various phases of planning with different ground brigade combat teams in Task Force Marne, demanding an efficient process.

Planning air assault missions is usually a 3-day process.

The ground BCT creates a basic plan for a particular air assault mission and submits it for approval from TF Marne. The ground BCT and 4-3rd Avn. Regt. then meet together to discuss mission

coordination and aviation support.

Taking that information, the aviators work up a plan of support and, usually within 24 hours, present it to the BCT in an air mission brief, which combines ground unit's expectations and what the aviation unit can deliver.

"Basically, it shows the plan in simple steps so no one can say they don't understand the plan," Stilwell said.

Once the plan has been finalized, aircrews get together to go over the mission to ensure everyone, from crew chiefs to pilots, understands it.

All of this planning and these meetings were more difficult in the past, Stilwell said. Before this, the air mission commander and flight lead would have to travel to the ground unit's location for meetings, or do it over the phone. Now, with the ability to have meetings over the secure network, planning has become more extensive and clear, which helps the OPTEMPO and creates the setting for 3rd CAB to reach its 200th air assault in 12 months.

"The process has gotten smoother," Stilwell said. "Everybody knows the deal."

COMMO

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two Soldiers over the course of the deployment.

"You've got to keep it light," Flores

said.

The Soldiers, marked promotions and personal achievements over the course of 15 months here, but the most significant event for the section didn't take place at FOB Delta, or even

in Iraq. No, the most significant event was the birth of Carlson's daughter, Sophia Ruth in August of 2007.

"As much as I've enjoyed my time here, that's the highlight," Carlson said.

Safety Thought of the Day

Contributing Factors to Vehicle Rollovers:

- Driving too fast for conditions..
- Driver inexperience and/or lack of training.
- Narrow roads with soft shoulders.
- Larger & heavier vehicles.
- Failure to maintain adequate clearance from the shoulder of the road.

Mitigation Measures:

- Adjust speeds for conditions.
- Know vehicle handling characteristics – especially if towing a trailer.
- Ensure thorough route recons to identify potential hazards.
- Ensure vehicle is PMCS'd and that tire pressure is correct.
- Enforce standards, use CRM principles, and follow good TTPs.

Leader Checks:

- Enforce seatbelts and gunners harnesses.
- Use the HEAT trainer to build rote & muscle memory.
- Ensure rollover drills, escape & rescue procedures with positive crew coordination are practiced.
- Brief driver & TC to avoid panic maneuvers & maintain proper following intervals.
- Ensure driver selection interviews are conducted to assess skill and experience

Ref:

Uparmored HMMWV Rollover Prevention and Egress Training Handbook , No. 06-31 Aug 06, GTA 55-03-030 Rollover Accident Battle Drill: Uparmored HMMWV.

Headline Highlights

Union votes underwear; fly in water; down a wrong way

Shrine workers may keep their underwear on at work

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, India (Reuters) – Employees counting donations at a popular Hindu shrine in southern India will no longer have to take off their underpants at work after the local human rights commission intervened.

Police and temple authorities imposed the dress code at the Sabarimala hill shrine in Kerala five years ago after thefts were reported from the shrine's strong-room.

Employees in the vault, all of whom were men, were made to work topless wearing only a dhoti – a cotton wrap worn around the waist – with nothing underneath.

But they found it degrading, and their union complained to the Kerala State Human Rights Commission.

"The employees on duty are made to strip before an officer before leaving the office to ensure that they do not carry anything in their underwear," said Chavara Gopakumar, the union leader. "It is humiliating and an insult to human dignity." The state's human rights commission agreed.

Authorities at the shrine, which is dedicated to Ayyappa, a south Indian deity, said on Friday they would end the practice and have begun looking into electronic surveillance systems.

Thousands of pilgrims flock to the shrine between November and January, bringing cash, precious metals and jewels in offerings. They are expected to forego

meat, alcohol and sex for 41 days before arriving.

Top court overturns dead fly-in-water damage claim

OTTAWA (AP) – A man who claimed that he became depressed, anxious and phobic after finding a dead fly in a bottle of water will no longer get the judgment he won against a bottling company, Canada's top court ruled Thursday.

Martin Mustapha will have to shell out thousands in court costs, instead of collecting the more than \$345,000 he won in an Ontario court three years ago.

The Supreme Court of Canada agreed in a 9-0 judgment that Mustapha suffered real psychological harm, but Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin said his reaction was so "unusual or extreme" that bottling company Culligan of Canada Ltd., should not have to pay compensation.

McLachlin said the legal test for damages is whether a person of "ordinary fortitude" would suffer psychological harm.

In Mustapha's case, she concluded, the reaction was so unique that Culligan could not reasonably have foreseen the consequences and should not be held liable.

Mustapha insisted that he had been treated unfairly and said finding the dead fly in an unopened bottle of water in 2001 devastated him.

He became obsessed with thoughts of dead flies, could not sleep and was constantly on edge – to the point that his business and even his sex life suffered.

"I'm just the type of person that is very clean and cautious about the health and well-being of myself and my family," Mustapha said.

He was diagnosed by several doctors as suffering from severe depression, anxiety and phobias.

Long, winding road for penniless Brazilian driver

SAO PAULO (Reuters) – A retired teacher drove the wrong way down a Brazilian highway for 5 miles (8 km), scattering holiday traffic and skirting a police roadblock, after turning around because she had no money for the toll.

Lidia Vitiello, 58, was approaching a toll booth on the Imigrantes Highway linking Sao Paulo city to the coast on Wednesday night when she found she was short of the 15.4 real (4.69 pounds) fee.

The road was packed because of a national holiday but, undaunted, she headed back against the flow of traffic.

Highway police tailed Vitiello and warned other motorists to steer clear.

She drove 5 miles in the wrong direction, passing about 350 vehicles and ignoring a police roadblock, before she stopped, police said.

Vitiello told police in a statement she turned back as she had no toll money.

Police said a blood test showed she had been drinking and she would be fined 950 reais (289.5 pounds).

"There were several tins of beer inside the car," Highway Police Cpl. Gilberto Almeida told Reuters.

Sudoku

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Halt (Stop)

kif (oh-guff)