

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Task Force Marne transitions to TF Mountain



Major General Rick Lynch, commander of Multi-National Division-Center, and the division command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews prepare to case the 3rd Infantry Division colors at the division headquarters on Victory Base. The 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, N.Y., assumes authority for MND-C June 1.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Amber Emery

MARNE 6 SENDS: Meeting the Needs of the Iraqi People

On January 10, 2007, President Bush announced a bold strategy for defeating terrorism – the Surge. With the Surge, five additional brigade combat teams deployed to Iraq. The 3rd Infantry Division deployed to stand up Multi-National Division – Center to operate in Baghdad's southern belts of the Mahmudiyah and Mada'in qadas and the four southern provinces of Babil, Karbala, Najaf, and Wasit.

When the 3rd Infantry Division Headquarters deployed in March 2007, attacks averaged 25 times per day. Now attack levels average less than two per day.

On January 1, 2008, Multi-National Division – Center shifted its focus to the non lethal lines of operation. With increased security came time for stability, and Dog Face Soldiers focused on providing services to the Iraqi people. They focused on developing local governance, improving economics, and increasing communication among the people.

Most importantly, the Soldiers no longer commuted to work. Multi-National Division Center has approximately 60 patrol bases and 75 percent of its Soldiers live among the Iraqi people to meet their



needs.

In September 2007, a program called Concerned Local Citizens, now known as the Sons of Iraq began when local Iraqis took control of their own neighborhoods. They said "enough" to the violence, and with our help donned road guard vests or PT belts and set up local checkpoints to secure their communities. This quickly became the Division's decisive effort.

Over time, Multi-National Division – Center grew to 36,000 Sons of Iraq who have led Soldiers to over 900 weapons caches and contributed to the stability of their areas. The improvised explosive device (IED) found/cleared rate is well over 80 percent because the Sons of Iraq show Soldiers where the IEDs are.

The Surge provided the combat forces to take the fight to the enemy, the patrol bases placed the Soldiers where they could make the greatest difference, and the Sons of Iraq program showed the citi-

zens that a grassroots approach to move forward was the answer for a new Iraq.

Soldiers in Multi-National Division – Center attacked all lines of operation together with the Iraqi people. People can debate the progress, but they can't debate the facts. Roads that were laced with IEDs a year ago are now littered with thriving markets. Bombed out buildings are now schools and clinics. Water is flowing in the canals. Locals attend routine council meetings. The economy is growing. The people are reading newspapers, listening to the radio, and bridges are connecting communities. Multi-National Division – Center Soldiers truly transformed the battlefield by meeting the needs of the Iraqi people.

Today, the 3rd Infantry Division transfers authority of Multi-National Division – Center to the 10th Mountain Division. But the fight will continue. Together, with our Iraqi brothers and sisters, we are building a new Iraq. Together, we are doing this for our children and their children.

Rock of the Marne!

Government of Iraq making progress

GREGORY DUBIN
MND-C PAO

BAGHDAD — A safer and more secure environment has not only brought Iraqis and their neighbors out of their homes to enjoy life, but has given the Government of Iraq a chance to reconnect with its citizens.

Over the last 15 months, leaders with the Multi-National Division - Center have seen where the GoI has made significant headway in its administration of security, governance and reconstruction.

"There have been positive steps: better budget execution, better distribution of services, more involvement with civil organizations. The list goes on," said Brig. Gen. Edward Cardon, deputy commanding general for support for MND-C.

"There is still much work to do, but clearly the security situation has opened a window of opportunity for the government to work and we are seeing progress," he said.

These developments are particularly evident in MND-C, the region south and southeast of Baghdad.

This secured environment has allowed the GoI to extend its reach to provincial, qada and nahia levels. Task Force Marne Soldiers and U.S. Department of State provincial reconstruction teams have helped develop a system that bridges these local institutions with GoI ministries and representatives.

Iraqi officials routinely fly to rural communities to meet with councils and labor organizations to learn about the



Courtesy photo

The GoI is currently refurbishing this water treatment facility in Salman Pak. A GoI worker adds additional tanks and piping to the facility.

challenges they face and coordinate GoI resources to address these problems.

This arrangement has substantially increased the scale of GoI funding and involvement, dramatically impacting the quality of life for Iraqis. For example, last year, the GoI spent \$1 million in the Mada'in Qada; so far this year, they've spent over 50 million.

Within MND-C, these initiatives include a canal cleaning in Jurf as Sakhr, a new bridge in Hawr Rajab and an elementary school refurbishment in al-Buaytha, to name a few.

Another way the GoI is strengthening its role in rebuilding Iraq is the GoI Commanders Emergency Response Program (I-CERP). This program, which kicked off earlier this month, uses GoI money to fund projects through the existing framework of the Coalition force's CERP.

To date, the GoI has committed \$270 million to I-CERP, of which MND-C has received about \$56 million for the provinces in the TF Marne operational environment.

I-CERP specifically contributes to reconstruction projects that promote self-sufficiency, such as schools, water purification plants, health clinics, city planning facilities, roads, sewers, irrigation and construction.

"Due to the improved security environment, governance, economic development and reconstruction have come to the forefront," Cardon said. "While these areas have not advanced as fast as everyone - including Iraqis on the street - would like, there is clear evidence that improvements are being made in every area."

As the capabilities of the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army improve, Iraqi Security Forces are increasingly assuming the lead in kinetic operations and maintaining security.

Last fall, for example, Task Force Marne handed over complete control of security in Karbala to ISF. The ISF has proved itself remarkably successful in preserving peace and stability in the province.

Even in the more tumultuous provinces, security is progressively shifting from the duty of Coalition forces to ISF. During the past two large-scale operations in MND-C -- Marne Piledriver and Marne Dauntless -- the ISF assumed the lead role, with TF Marne Soldiers in support. Through these efforts, ISF is clearing some of the last bastions of al-Qaeda in the TF Marne area of responsibility.

THE Dog Face Daily

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793rd Military Police Battalion
354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

School gets help from Soldiers, U.S. children

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

FOB KALSU – As if the last day of school wasn't enough to put smiles on Kutimiyah children's faces, they also received a special surprise courtesy of 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers.

On May 24, Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, delivered school supplies to the children, courtesy of Mrs. Casandra Hanson's 9th grade literature class at Germantown High School, in Germantown, Wis.

The children had been without a school for several months after it was ravaged by insurgents, said 1st Lt. Greg Highstrom, leader of 2nd Platoon, Battery B. The insurgents cracked windows, damaged the building's structural integrity and destroyed most of the children's classroom supplies.

The loss of the building meant students were forced to continue their studies in a neighborhood house.

Hanson, a friend of Highstrom, was in contact with him and learned of the children's predicament.

"The kids are the future of Iraq," Highstrom said, adding that in order to give them the best shot at a better future, they needed some help in the present. Hanson's class, as well as several American Legion associations in the area, mailed supplies for the platoon to deliver.

The delivery included paper, pens, pencils, backpacks, glue sticks, erasers and scissors.

"The supplies are standard stuff fifth graders need," said Highstrom, a native of Cedarburg, Wis. "We thought about what we wanted when we were that age."

While the children were pleased with the supplies, they will have to wait until the next school year to use them. Like children in America, Iraqi children have a three-month summer break between classes.

Although Battery B Soldiers will redeploy from the area before next school year starts, they have taken steps to ensure the upcoming year goes better than the last. To match the new school supplies, the Soldiers began working with Iraqi contractors to repair the damaged school building.

Contractors are also cleaning the building's interior of debris from improvised explosive device deto-



Courtesy photo

(Above) Children from Kutimiyah elementary school hold up a sign thanking freshmen at Germantown High School (GHS), in Germantown, Wis., for school supplies they received. Soldiers of 2nd Plt., Btry. B, 1-9th FA, delivered the supplies.

(Right) First Lieutenant Greg Highstrom, 2nd Platoon leader for Btry. B, 1-9th FA, gets his hands dirty while mixing cement to repair cracks in the Kutimiyah area elementary school.



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

nations.

"The children need to be able to study in here," said Hanni Shakur Hussein, a contractor from Yusifiyah. "We need to build the area for these kids' future."

It is a statement that Highstrom's Soldiers agree with, even though their tour is almost complete.

"We got to give them something better," said Spc. Ian Knight, from Terre Haute, Ind. "We got to give them a chance."

Safety Thought of the Day: Safety Reminders for Soldiers at Home

Words to Live By:

- Don't be lured into a false sense of security, or a feeling of invincibility.
- Maintain your professional standards and be accountable for your actions.
- If you must drink, drink responsibly, plan ahead and use a designated driver.

Reintegration Ground Rules:

- No driving for the first 24-hours. If anyone must go somewhere, have a family

member or a friend drive you.

- A 100-mile restriction on travel from home station for newly redeployed Soldiers - Except for emergencies approved by the chain of-command, no one will go outside that radius prior to the start of block leave.
- Motorcycle riders - keep it parked until you have taken the refresher training. This training is offered by the Garrison Safety Office as part of the reintegration process.

Headline Highlights

Watering shoes; Olympic frauds; lawsuit over bedbugs

Man accused of spraying woman's shoes with water

CINCINNATI (AP) – A woman told Cincinnati police that she heard a noise and then felt something cold on her feet. Police said a man crawled under a table at a University of Cincinnati library and used a syringe to spray saltwater onto the woman's shoes.

Dwight Pannell, 43, of Columbus, was booked on charges of voyeurism, assault and criminal trespass, court records show.

Pannell was silent in court a court appearance on Thursday. His attorney argued that Pannell's alleged actions didn't warrant the charges against him.

The woman told officers that after she heard something coming from under her table and felt the sensation on her feet, she looked down and saw a man on his knee holding a syringe.

The judge set Pannell's bond at \$75,000.

And the gold medal for Olympic scams goes to...

BEIJING (Reuters) – Tricksters are setting up fake Olympic ticket websites, selling Olympic bonds that do not exist and running fraudulent Olympic-linked competitions, state media said Thursday, warning people not to be taken in.

There were eight common Olympic-themed frauds, the official Xinhua news agency said.

In one, text messages are sent out

claiming the recipient has won a prize from the Beijing Games organizers, but then the person is told they have to pay tax upfront to get the prize, Xinhua said.

In another, people are told that a warehouse containing Olympic medals caught fire and several medals are missing, but that the government was offering rewards for their return, though the report did not explain exactly how the fraud was carried out.

A third involves the setting up of a fake Olympic ticket website which offers to sell unclaimed pre-booked or reserved tickets, and a fourth offers to sell special Olympic bonds or financial funds.

"They spin a web of lies to tempt and deceive people, and carry out their frauds by taking advantage of victims' desire for a small gain," Xinhua said.

Police are warning people to be cautious and not to let their guard down, the report added.

Fox News worker sues over bedbugs in NY office

NEW YORK (Reuters) – A Fox News employee who says she suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder after being bitten by bedbugs at work filed a lawsuit on Thursday against the owner of the Manhattan office tower where she worked.

Jane Clark, 37, a 12-year veteran of Fox News, a unit of News Corp, said she complained to human resources after being bitten three times between October 2007 and April 2008. She said she was ridiculed and the office was not treated

for months.

Beacon Capital Partners, which owns the tower in midtown Manhattan, said in a statement that it had not been made aware of the problem and that it was the responsibility of tenants to manage infestations.

"As a prudent step, we are bringing in outside, independent experts to review the situation," the statement said.

The suit did not say how much Clark was seeking in damages.

Clark, who says she's been diagnosed with PTSD and can no longer work, has filed a separate workers compensation claim with News Corp, and the company is paying her medical bills and lost wages. A News Corp spokeswoman declined to comment because News Corp was not named in the lawsuit.

"They made a lot of mistakes," Clark said through tears at a news conference at the office of her lawyer, Alan Schnurman, who said he has brought numerous bedbug cases.

"I didn't want my baby to get bitten. I was terrified of bringing it home," Clark said.

She said she believed a colleague who used her workstation on weekends, and who no longer works for Fox News, brought the infestation to the office. Clark's home was never infested.

Clark says she suffers nightmares and keeps a flashlight at her bedside so she can check for bugs during the night.

"It's their obligation to the working public to provide a safe environment," Schnurman said.

Sudoku

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

from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Drop your weapon. er-mee slaH-hock.