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March 3, 2009

'Clean' soccer in Maysan



Photo by 2nd Lt. Timothy Hayes

An Iraqi soldier hands out informational handbills to the people of Abu Rummanah Feb. 20.

2ND LT. TIMOTHY HAYES
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



FOB GARRY OWEN – Iraqi and American troops are much too familiar with clearing improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance, but the most recent clearance mission here held a different significance.

This ordnance-clearing mission included an area just outside the field where a single bomb killed nine children and wounded five others four days earlier.

The 1st Battalion, 38th Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division, with assistance from 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, walked the surface of Maysan Province's Abu Rummanah soccer field searching for hidden explosives during 'Operation Clean Game' Feb. 20.

The Iraqi Soldiers and combat engineers of Company A,

2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, used a specialized vehicle, called a Husky, while foot Soldiers used mine detectors to search the soccer field and the nearby location. By mission completion, the inspected areas were free of ordnance, and the city's children could play soccer without fear.

"I am thankful for both the Iraqi and American Armies' support during this time of need," said Ra'ed, a resident who assisted the wounded children during the Feb. 16 explosion. "It shows that there are people out there who care about the safety of our children."

The Iraqi government has placed an emphasis on safety and security, and with the Americans' support, took the necessary steps to prevent future land mine-related incidents at the soccer stadium.

Although there may be future areas to clear, Operation Clean Game has made playing soccer safer for the children of Maysan.

Modern Army Combatives: a thinking person's game

SGT. FRANK VAUGHN
MND-C



CAMP VICTORY – The Modern Army Combatives Program is alive and well on Camp Victory.

Soldiers and civilians alike gather at Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Physical Fitness Center to train in this program, which is grounded in principles and techniques of Brazilian jujitsu, wrestling, boxing and Muay Thai kickboxing. The program is designed to teach Soldiers how to fight hand-to-hand when weapons use is not practical in a combat situation, said Sgt. 1st Class Ralph Gray, platoon sergeant for Headquarters Platoon, Charlie Company, Task Force Dragon.

"You don't want to be the guy that kills someone's 70-year old grandmother or seven year-old child in a crowded situation," said the Cleveland native. "However, sometimes in those situations you have to subdue someone to protect your life. What are you going to do?"

"This isn't about being strong and imposing your will on the enemy; it's more like chess, only with consequences," he said. "It's not always the biggest or strongest guy that wins, it's usually the guy who's still thinking when it gets dangerous."

While the program has obvious benefits to Soldiers in combat readiness training, it also instills discipline and focus, said Gray.

"I had a Soldier in my platoon that really struggled in his career. He wasn't really focused and really lacked discipline," he said. "After he attended first-level combatives training, he really turned

his career around. He just recently went to the promotion board."

The program is beneficial for life outside of the Army as well.

"I'm in the National Guard, but in my civilian job I work as a corrections officer," said Sgt. John Gaynor, communications noncommissioned officer with 146th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. "These skills I'm learning will come in handy back home when I have

to deal with violent prisoners."

Anyone who is interested in training in Modern Army Combatives can attend classes any night of the week at 9 p.m. in the aerobics room at the fitness center. Instructors focus on ground-fighting skills Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays; they focus on stand-up fighting skills such as striking and kicking Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.



Photo by Sgt. Frank Vaughn

Sgt. John Gaynor, communications noncommissioned officer for 146th ESB and native of Milton, Fla., is restrained by Sean McManus, civilian information technology contractor with Victory Base Help Desk at 40th Signal Brigade and native of Atlanta during rolling drills Thursday. This technique is part of the Modern Army Combatives Program taught at Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Physical Fitness Center every night at 9 p.m.

THE Mountain View

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Task Force 449



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Comanche Soldiers work to ensure ISF success, local future

SPC. JOSH LeCAPPELAIN
2ND BCT, 4TH INF. DIV.



CAMP ECHO – Coalition forces provided necessary support and guidance to help the Iraqi Security Forces continue on the path to success by conducting two dual-purpose patrols to provide support in Diwaniya recently.

Soldiers from Comanche Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division visited two Iraqi Police Emergency Security Units to exchange important information.

1st Lt. Ray Crutchfield, a tank platoon leader with Comanche Company, said during the last two weeks, every patrol has stopped by an ESU to assess their combat power.

Topics covered during each visit included weapons on hand, working conditions, effective security devices, detention facilities, battle drill execution and communications equipment.

It is not the first time that Comanche Company has worked closely with the ESUs.

“Until recently, we had provided each ESU in the city with tactical site exploitation training,” said Crutchfield, a native of Floyd Knobs, In.

“We completed that approximately two weeks ago. The next step is a centralized training facility where we will train them on a unit level. Each ESU will send approximately 100 people to class for 10 days, and those individuals will go back and train the rest of their ESUs.”

In addition, the Soldiers traveled to a site that will become the Talon Marketplace.

They met with security officials on the site and were given a tour of the area to better help them visualize the finished market.

“The whole purpose of the market is to help influence the local economy in a positive way,” added Crutchfield, a graduate of South Dakota State University.

“We want to help them, by helping provide something we can leave behind – something the Iraqi people can have that benefits them in the future.”

Construction on the Talon Market should begin in the near future.



Photos by Spc. Josh LeCappelain

(Above) 1st Lt. Ray Crutchfield, Comanche Co., 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., tank platoon leader, briefs to his Soldiers prior to their patrol in Diwaniya recently. (Right) 1st Lt. Ray Crutchfield, Comanche Co., 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., tank platoon leader, listens to an IP officer explaining his team's capabilities in Diwaniya. (Below) Pfc. James Henkins, an armored crewmember with Comanche Co., 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., a Sulligent, Ala native, pulls security while his company scouts the future site of the Talon Market recently.



Headline Round-up

U.S. News:

OLYMPIA, Wash. - Terminally ill patients with less than six months to live will soon be able to ask their doctors to prescribe them lethal medication in Washington state. But even though the "Death with Dignity" law takes effect Thursday, people who might seek the life-ending prescriptions could find their doctors conflicted or not willing to write them. Many doctors are hesitant to talk publicly about where they stand on the issue, said Dr. Tom Preston, a retired cardiologist and board member of Compassion & Choices, the group that campaigned for and supports the law. "There are a lot of doctors, who in principle, would approve or don't mind this, but for a lot of social or professional reasons, they don't want to be involved," he said. But Preston said discussions about end-of-life issues between doctor and patient will increase because of the new law, and he thinks that as time goes on more and more doctors who don't have a religious or philosophical opposition will be open to participating.

Sports News:

LAS VEGAS - Kyle Busch has had plenty of highlights in his short NASCAR career: setting a record as the youngest winner in series history, giving Toyota its first victory and returning Joe Gibbs Racing's flagship car to prominence. None of it compared to winning at home. Busch notched the biggest win of his young career March 1 by driving from the back of the field to win at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, his hometown track.

Odd News::

ERWIN, Tenn. - A man was been arrested after police said he used counterfeit money to purchase fake OxyContin pills from an undercover officer. Unicoi County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 21-year-old man on Feb. 24 and charged him with criminal conspiracy with schedule II drugs, forgery and criminal simulation. Investigator Frank Rogers said the officer met with several people at a mobile home park and arranged for the suspect and another man to come to Unicoi to buy 76 OxyContin pills for \$4,875. Officers said it was "obviously bad money" with some bills printed on just one side. Authorities also tracked down the device believed used to make the counterfeit money. The Johnson City Press reported officers expect to make more arrests in the case.

Quote of the Day

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." - Theodore Roosevelt

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For the
answer to
today's puzzle,
go to:



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mountain.com](http://www.taskforcemountain.com)

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Lions Den

March 3

Madden 09 @ 7:30 p.m.

Spades @ 8 p.m.

March 7

10th Mountain Division Salsa

Band @ 9 p.m.

Fridays

"Gospel Hour: Moments of Joy"
@ noon

Fishbowl Gym

Full Body Aerobics @ 6 a.m.

March 27

Relay for Life HOPE Ceremony
@ 8 p.m.

March 28

Cancer awareness 5K/10K walk
run. Free t-shirt and
continental breakfast. Race
begins @ 7 a.m.

April 11

Pirate's Cove Run 5K/10K.

Registration begins @ 7 a.m.,
race begins @ 8 a.m.

T-shirts awarded to top
finishers.

Slayer

March 7

Camp Slayer Fishing Tournament, Operation Catch Fish,
at Slayer Lake @ noon. For
details visit [https://corps.
intranet.iraq.centcom.mil/
Pages/Default.aspx](https://corps.intranet.iraq.centcom.mil/Pages/Default.aspx).

Liberty

March 5

10th Mountain Division Salsa

Band at MWR C-10 @ 9 p.m.

Victory

March 8

Lifting competition at Sgt. 1st
Class Paul R. Smith Physical
Fitness Center. POC: MA2
Amber Mathwig, amber.
mathwig@iraq.centcom.mil

Thursdays

Texas Hold 'Em at Area 51 @
8 p.m.

Babylon Theater

March 6

Town Hall Meeting @ 1 p.m.