

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne



Capt. Yoon Choi

Maj. Dimitri Cassimatis (right), a surgeon with 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2/10th Mtn. Div. (LI) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., and native of Washington, D.C., speaks to Iraqi local nationals April 20 during a medical operation in Khatad Village, Iraq.

MEDOP provides Iraqis basic medical care

STAFF SGT. ANGELA MCKINZIE
2/10TH MTN. DIV. (LI) PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KHATAD VILLAGE, Iraq — For many Iraqis, getting treatment for simple illnesses - such as the common cold - has been difficult until now.

Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment "Wolverines," 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) of Fort Drum, N.Y., and 3rd Battalion "Mountain Lions," 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division teamed up April 20 to provide Iraqi local nationals with basic medical care during a medical operation in Khatad Village, Iraq.

"The MEDOP allows us to see a per-

spective very foreign from the battlefield," said Maj. Dimitri Cassimatis, 1-89 surgeon and native of Washington, D.C. "We see mothers and fathers bringing in their children - (they are) worried about their health."

During the medical operation, citizens complained of symptoms ranging from a sore throat to an aching back. However, chronic illnesses such as high blood pressure could not be treated in one day. Since the medical operation was a very basic medical set-up the patients with chronic illnesses were sent to the Civil Military Operations Center where they could receive continual care.

"Today we are treating and giving

out medication for common illnesses," said Sgt. William Bradshaw, a 1-89 military transition team medical trainer and native of Hurst, Texas. "The CMOC is staffed with doctors that can do more for the Iraqis."

And in other ways the MEDOP provided more for the Iraqis than just basic medical care.

"In addition to providing free medical care it is giving us the opportunity to befriend and earn the trusts of our local national neighbors," Bradshaw commented.

The MITT operations trainer also elaborated on the indirect effect of providing basic medical care.

"We are building relationships with the local nationals that live within our area of operations," said Capt. Yoon Choi, a native of Fair Lawn, N.J.

"This MEDOP might have been the swing vote for some of the people treated here on whose side they should be on," said 1st Lt. Arkan, a native of Baghdad who serves as a personal security detachment platoon leader with 3-4-6 IA.

Regardless of the indirect effect the MEDOP had, medical providers were happy to help the Iraqis.

"Although we are only able to provide basic medical treatment to the local Iraqis, you can tell by the expressions on the people's faces how grateful they are for any assistance," said 2nd Lt. Max Smith, a 1-89 platoon leader and native of Grand Haven, Mich.

At the end of the operation Soldiers realized the Iraqis were not too different than the Americans.

"Most Iraqis want what we (the Americans) have - health and comfort for themselves and their families," Cassimatis added.

The squadron is planning to conduct more MEDOPs in the future in order to continue providing the Iraqis with basic medical care.

Spiritual risk assessment

CHAP. (LT. COL.) HARLON TRIPLETT
3RD INF. DIV. CHAPLAIN

New Milford is a quaint little town of 1,000 deer hunting fanatics and other assorted fishing maniacs located in Northeast Pennsylvania. (If you think I am kidding, all public schools in New Milford are closed for the first three days of deer season because if they were open no one would attend anyway!)

I had the privilege of ministering in New Milford for seven of the greatest years of my life between 1981 and 1988. Every year before deer season in Pennsylvania, I would take my deer rifle up to Ken Squire's farm to zero it in at his dump where I had constructed a makeshift 100-yard range.

The dump was located on the backside of his 300-acre farm. One day in the fall of 1987 I set up my portable shooting bench to put a few rounds down range with my .270 Winchester.

When I thought I had the rounds pretty close to the bull's eye I walked over to check my target. As I approached the discarded freezer that I had duct taped my target on to use as a backstop I caught some movement out of my left eye.

What I saw was one of the strangest things I had ever seen.

It was a big raccoon with a blueberry pie filling can stuck on his head walking in circles and obviously disoriented, distraught and angry. His tactical mistake was that he stuck his head so far in the can to try to get that last little bit of filling out of the bottom that he had gotten it firmly and permanently stuck around his neck.

The raccoon had not done a thorough risk assessment! This was because of the fact that Ken's wife Mary had an old P38-lookin' hand-operated can opener that left a jagged edge when the can was opened.

The slippery metal outside of the tin can prevented the raccoon from getting a firm grip with his paws to get the can off. I had three courses of action at this point:

- Do nothing
- Shoot the poor old raccoon and put him out of obvious misery
- Put my life in mortal danger and try to get the can off



his head

Because I was feeling sorry for the poor old fella, I chose number three.

I put the rifle down and got a stick, pinned him down and twisted the can off of his head and from around his neck very carefully. When I finally got the can off the light hurt his eyes since he had been in the dark for quite some time.

As he began to focus, his squinting eyes looked at me with surprise and seemed to show amazing gratitude and appreciation towards me for what I had done for him.

As I have thought about this incident over the years I have learned much as I reflect on it. The last little bit of blueberry pie filling could possibly represent sin or any thing we should not be "getting into."

When we sin, we get blinded to what is right and are in the darkness like the raccoon.

My prayer for all of us is that we don't go after the "blueberry pie filling" at the bottom of the can, but when we do I pray that God will pull the can off of our head for us so that we can finally see the light again.

Conduct daily spiritual risk assessment and you will be much less likely to get a "can" stuck on your head.

THE Dog Face Daily

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4th Brigade (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division



Spc. Darianne Castro

Sgt. Derek Defelice (right), a driver with 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) based out of Fort Drum, N.Y., and native of Waterville, Maine, stands at attention as Col. Michael Kershaw, 2nd BCT commander and native of Huffman, Texas, pins a combat action badge on. Defelice was awarded a Purple Heart and a CAB April 1 during an awards ceremony at Camp Striker, Iraq.



Courtesy photo

Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division personnel section rest after finishing the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Run April 21 at Camp Victory.
Top: Staff Sgt. Deoneza Payne, 1st Lt. Natasha Esquivel, Staff Sgt. Demetria Flagg, Sgt. Colleen Brutton, Spc. Tiara Jack and Pfc. Alyssa Carducci.
Bottom: Chief Warrant Officer Yolondria Dixon-Carter, Staff Sgt. Wilziane Buissereth and Sgt. Diana Guevara.

**Credit
where
credit
is due ...**

HEADLINE HIGHLIGHTS

India court orders Gere's arrest for 'obscene' kiss

REUTERS

JAIPUR, India — An Indian court ordered the arrest of Hollywood star Richard Gere Thursday for kissing Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty at an AIDS campaign event this month saying it was an obscene act committed in public.

Gere's repeated kisses on Shetty's cheeks at an event to promote AIDS awareness in New Delhi sparked protests in some parts of India, mostly by Hindu vigilante groups, who saw it as an outrage against her modesty and an affront to Indian culture.

The order by a court in the northern city of Jaipur came in response to a complaint by a local lawyer. The judge watched a video recording of Gere kissing Shetty and found him guilty of violating Indian laws against public obscenity, the lawyer, Poonam Chand Bhandari, said.

The court also summoned Shilpa Shetty to appear on May 5, Bhandari said, adding that Gere was also ordered to be arrested. Gere can be sent to jail for up to three months or fined or both for the crime if he is arrested. He is not in India now but can be held if he visits the country again. The Hollywood star is a devout Buddhist and a vocal supporter of the Tibetan cause and visits India frequently to meet the Dalai Lama, who lives in exile in northern India. Groups of men had burned and kicked straw effigies of Gere and Shetty in sporadic protests across the country after newspapers published the picture of the kiss on their front pages and TV channels aired visuals of the event.

Shetty, the winner of the "Celebrity Big Brother" reality TV

show in Britain this year had said the kiss may have gone a "little overboard" but it was not obscene and the protests made India look regressive. She said Gere was only re-enacting his moves from the film "Shall We Dance" to entertain the audience at the AIDS event and communicate in a Bollywood style as he did not speak Hindi. Many commentators had subsequently expressed their unhappiness at what they said were fringe groups making a mountain of a harmless peck on the cheek.

Maturing cheese now Web star

REUTERS

LONDON — A large English cheddar cheese has become a star of the Internet, attracting more than 1 million viewers to sit and stare at it as it slowly ripens. First placed in front of a webcam in late December, the Westcombe cheddar from West Country Farmhouse Cheesemakers leaped to public attention in early February and has since attracted viewers from 119 countries.

"The hits went over 1 million this morning. It has been a real challenge keeping the cheese up and running with all the interest it has generated," a spokesman for the company running the website, www.cheddarvision.tv, said Wednesday.

Watchers have tuned in from as far afield as Albania and New Zealand, although most are from the United States where a school has even sent in pictures of two crocodiles to guard the cheese.

"The whole idea was to show people how real food is made -- and it seems to be working," cheesemaker Tom Calver said. "It takes a year for the cheese to mature. This is not fast food. It is slow food."

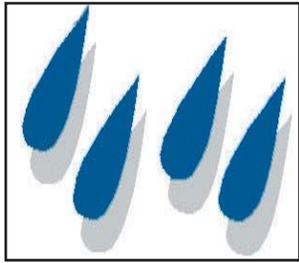
Marne Weather Watch

Saturday, April 28



Partly Sunny
Low: 72F/High: 92F

Sunday, April 29



Rainy
Low: 72F/High: 92F

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

from Green Belt Sudoku, by Frank Longo

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Do you speak English? *tit-kell-lem en-gee-zee?*