



The Mountain View

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March 10, 2009

Iraqi Police 'land' joint training



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brendan Stephens

Iraqi policemen, from the Dhi Qar Province pull security during an air assault training event with Soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Regt., at Camp Cedar, March 2.

SPC. REBEKAH LAMPMAN
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



COB ADDER – Seven Iraqi police officers jumped out of UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and hit the dirt at Camp Cedar's landing zone during an air assault training exercise here March 2.

"I am very happy," said Maj. Gen. Sabah, Dhi Qar's Iraqi Provincial Chief of Police. "With this training from the Coalition Forces, my men are going to be able to use the air as well as the ground to go after the terrorists and arrest them. Without this we would not be as knowledgeable and trained as we are now."

The Dhi Qar Province's 5th Tacti-

cal Security Unit of the Iraqi Police partnered with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, "Thunder Horse" Battalion, to conduct this joint training.

During the exercise, the IP's secured four buildings and detained three suspected criminals after exiting the helicopters.

The TSU also found a weapons cache, important documents and treated one injured Iraqi.

"We are always trying to increase their abilities to plan and conduct missions," said Capt. Christopher Kelshaw, a Thunder Horse company commander. "They met all of our goals, but we will still train them to an even higher

standard of tactical operations."

This training demonstrated the TSU's abilities to issue warrants according to Iraqi law, develop target packets for high-value individuals and conduct air assault missions Kelshaw, from Wharton, N.J., explained.

"It shows the Iraqi Security Forces are one step closer to becoming independent," said Kelshaw, a two-time combat veteran with 14 years of military service. "Little by little we are taking less of a direct role in this effort."

The Thunder Horse battalion is planning similar training missions in the future to help develop the TSU's ability to utilize military aircraft on the battlefield.

Opportunity Fair sews seeds of success for Agri-business in Wasit

SGT. 1ST CLASS JOE THOMPSON
41ST FB,



FOB DELTA – Farmers, businesses and financial institutions came together in Wasit province's first Opportunity Fair recently.

The event promoted business relationships, agriculture extension service training programs, and showcased modern agricultural equipment and products.

"All of the agricultural representatives and companies that participated in the fair were very satisfied because it gave them the opportunity to make contacts with (possible partners)," said Salam Scander, Wasit Director General of Agriculture. "The Government of Iraq's participation in the loans without interest to the farmers was a lot of help for them to buy supplies and equipment, so they can then plant their lands. All of these things will help the people."

Forty-three booths were filled with representatives and companies, a majority of which were agricultural companies marketing various agricultural equipment and products, as well as five banks that offered zero-fee loans with low interest rates for major purchases and non-governmental organizations providing programs to individuals and businesses in the community. There were also booths for the GoI and Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team Agricultural Extension Services programs which provide training to farmers to increase their productivity.

"Most of the participants feel proud of this event and are grateful for the participation and role of the PRT to empower the economic sector in Wasit," said Hazim Yassen, who worked with the Wasit PRT to coordinate the opportunity fair. "When the farmers come here and see all these products, they learn how to make an agreement or a joint venture with the participating companies to open up their capabilities and the implementation of these products in their crops and on their farms."

The fair was a greater success than initially imagined, according to Staff Sgt. Thomas Starling, 41st Fires Brigade, Civil Affairs Team Sergeant. "This event was unique because it gave the people access to modern products and they could walk to the next booth and find a means to afford the prod-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson

Many of the 43 booths at the Wasit Opportunity Fair distributed educational material.

ucts through credit and loans offered through the banks," said Starling, a native of Valley City, Ohio. "It shows the steps to a modern society, giving these companies from different sectors the opportunity to create partnerships."

Some of the companies from Ramadi province were interested in conducting a similar fair in Fallujah, said Yassen. "This fair can also serve as a model for other provinces."

THE Mountain View

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172nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team
2nd BCT, 4th Infantry Division
4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division
41st Fires Brigade
343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
793rd Military Police Battalion
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
Task Force 449

Iraqi water plant rejuvenated

CAPT. STEPHEN C. SHORT
172ND INF. BDE.



TUNIS – Water is a building block of life. Unfortunately, clean water is not a luxury afforded in some areas of Iraq.

But thanks to some concerned Iraqi citizens and the help of U.S. Soldiers, clean water is a reality for the people of Tunis

Tunis Tech Water Treatment Facility received its final inspection from the Soldiers of B Company, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, 172nd Infantry Brigade here recently, before making final payment to the contractor renovating the facility.

Iraq built the water treatment facility 11 years ago, but with time and neglect, it fell well below standard.

“When we arrived here all of the pipes, valves and pumps needed to be replaced,” said Spc. Laura Garretto, project manager for the water treatment plant renovation. “It was not working to standard for the Iraqi people.”

The water goes through a series of filters then pumps to the local community.

“We need more water treatment facilities, because there are some communities where people are still drinking directly from the river,” said Nassir Mugheer Nassir, son of Sheik Mugheer, who visits often to ensure quality work and progress.

A water intake pump removes water straight from the nearby canal.

The canal is a tributary of the Euphrates River and susceptible to drought.

“There is a municipality office to request receipt of water from the village, and the goal is to connect the people to their government,” said Capt. William Arendt, team chief for Civil Affairs Team 3-4.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees established the scope of work to be done at the treatment plant, and the Civil Affairs teams have been using their training and experience to ensure that all of the work at the plant is done to standard and continue to work with the local government to ensure the facility remains running for the Tunis community.



Photo by Capt. Stephen C. Short

Spc. Laura Garretto, project manager for the water treatment plant renovation, of B Co., 403rd CA Bn., 172nd Inf. Bde., inspects the condition of the generators during the final inspection of the Tunis Tech Water Treatment Facility, recently. The generators power the plant and Iraq built the water treatment facility 11 years ago.

“One employee runs the entire treatment plant operation and lives directly on the property with his family,” added Garretto, a Watervliet, New York native. “A training program is in review to ensure that maintenance continues at the plant, so that clean water is continuously available to the community.”

Staff Section Round-up

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2009



Come Join In the Celebration of the Multi-National Division - Center's

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH OBSERVANCE

DATE: 10 MARCH 2009
TIME: 1600HRS
PLACE: HOPE CHAPEL



Is there someone you'd like to say hello to at home?



If you are interested in taking part in a live hometown interview contact Staff Sgt. Kristen King at kristen.king@iraq.centcom.mil

Obama's strategy - what do you think of it?



To let the CG and others know, go to the Mountain Sound Off Blog at

www.taskforce-mountain.com

Headline Round-up

World News:

SEOUL, South Korea - North Korea put its armed forces on standby for war March 9 and threatened retaliation against anyone seeking to stop the regime from launching a satellite into space in the latest barrage of threats from the communist regime. Pyongyang also cut off a military hot line with the South, causing a complete shutdown of their border and stranding hundreds of South Koreans staying at an industrial zone in the North Korean border city of Kaesong. The warning came as U.S. and South Korean troops kicked off their annual war games across the South, exercises the North has condemned as preparation for an invasion.

U.S. News:

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama's announcement March 9 that he is overturning his predecessor's policies toward embryonic stem cells also will include a broad declaration that science — not political ideology — would guide his administration. Obama planned to reverse President George W. Bush's limits on federally funded stem cell research and direct the National Institutes of Health to put in place safeguards so science is protected from political interference. The moves would fulfill a campaign promise. "We've got eight years of science to make up for," said Dr. Curt Civin, whose research allowed scientists to isolate stem cells and who now serves as the founding director of the University of Maryland Center for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine. "Now, the silly restrictions are lifted."

Entertainment:

LOS ANGELES - "Watchmen" clocked in with \$55.7 million in ticket sales to claim the top spot at the box office, making director Zack Snyder's comic book adaptation about a team of twisted superheros the biggest opening of 2009 so far. Still, it was not quite as big as the \$70 million take of Snyder's "300" in 2007. Dan Fellman, head of distribution for "Watchmen" studio Warner Bros., said it was unfair to compare the two films. "They're two different movies," Fellman said March 8. "This is a movie that runs two hours and 45 minutes. That really only leaves the exhibitor with one showing a night. If you have an 8 o'clock show, the next show is at midnight. So with essentially one show a night, I think this is outstanding." Fans of the subversive comic book series by writer Alan Moore and illustrator Dave Gibbons waited years for Snyder's big-screen version.

Quote of the Day

'Always end the name of your child with a vowel, so that when you yell the name will carry.'- Bill Cosby

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u	6								

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



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Lions Den

Dominoes @ 7:30 p.m.
Halo @ 7:30 p.m.
Salsa Class @ 8:30 p.m.

Fishbowl Gym

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.

Victory

March 15
Victory Marathon/half marathon @ 7 a.m. Start at multi-purpose stage next to Oasis Dining Facility. Individual and team runners. Teams must consist of one male and one female. Runners must complete registration forms and email them to joseph.may@us.army.mil. Packets must be picked up March 14 at the multi-purpose stage.

Liberty

March 14
Jacksonville River Run 15K at Z Lake. Registration begins @ 6 a.m. Contact Jeffrey Heise for more information, jeffrey.heise@iraq.centcom.mil.

Slayer

Saturdays
Cigar club at Green Beans @ 8 p.m.

Babylon Theater

March 16
Newcomers Brief @ 1 p.m.
March 17
Fire Warden Class @ 1 p.m.
Fire Extinguisher Class @ 2 p.m.