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March 16, 2009

IA provides humanitarian assistance in Maysan



Photo by 2nd Lt. Sean Frankum

Lt. Malik Theab, an Iraqi Soldier assigned to the 40th Iraqi Army Brigade, directs residents from the Hay Al Hussein neighborhood to the humanitarian aid drop in Al Amarah, Iraq March 9.

2ND LT. SEAN FRANKUM
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



FOB GARRYOWEN – Iraqi Soldiers traveled house to house in a small neighborhood in the Maysan Province, on the southeastern border of Iraq to hand out essential supplies to citizens in need March 9.

The 1st Battalion, 40th Iraqi Army Brigade, assisted by American Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat

Team, 1st Cavalry Division, provided blankets, canned food and other household necessities during the humanitarian aid drop in Hay Al Hussein, located in the city of Al Amarah.

Along with food and bedding supplies, Iraqi children were given comic books featuring their hometown heroes, the Iraqi Security Forces.

“If we can give them even just a blanket, they will be very grateful,” said Lt. Malik Theab, who aided the Iraqis while leading his IA Soldiers during the good will operation.

One of the residents that received items from the Coalition Forces, a mother of three children, explained the mattress and blankets would be a big help because her sons currently sleep on the floor.

This humanitarian mission helped the citizens of Maysan with necessities they can’t afford.

It also provided the Iraqi Soldiers with experience in planning, coordinating and carrying out civil military operations for future goodwill missions.

IA Commandos train to lead



Photo by 1st Lt. Chang J. Ahn

An American Soldier, assigned to the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, assists an Iraqi Soldier from the 3rd Battalion, 41st Iraqi Army Brigade in a reflexive fire exercise during a joint training event in the Maysan Province of southern Iraq recently.

1ST LT. CHANG J. AHN
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



FOB HUNTER – Another chapter on operations in southern Iraq was written as Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 41st Iraqi Army Brigade ‘Commandos’ honed their combat edge with the ‘Black Dragons’ of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division during a three-day training operation in the Maysan Province recently.

The IA Soldiers learned various skills required to become an independent security force.

The first day of joint training consisted of classes on weapons safety, vehicle maintenance and proper room-clearing procedures.

The day concluded with the Iraqi Soldiers participating in a practical exercise where they were tasked to travel to a remote location and execute a room-clearing operation.

“I was surprised how well the Iraqi Army took to our classes,” said Staff Sgt. Jason Marquez, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment Soldier from Rochester, WA. “They were always motivated and eager to learn.”

The following day, the IA Soldiers practiced the use of various formations and tactics while crossing different types of terrain.

The key emphasis was the importance of proper planning before conducting missions, and the ability to adjust formations and method-of-travel based on the area and weather conditions.

“It is one thing to know various tactics. However, the challenge is choosing the proper tactic to use in a given situation,” said a platoon leader of the Iraqi Commando element. “This is why planning and rehearsals are important in all missions.”

The final day of training focused on first aid and countering improvised explosive devices. During the first aid training, the 41st IA commandos learned how to properly evaluate an injured Soldier, as well as different ways to treat wounds. The Iraqi troops trained on the use of the High Risk Warrant Casualty Kits, which provide the IA with the ability to more rapidly extract injured Soldiers and initiate immediate care.

The training between IA Soldiers and the Black Dragons demonstrated the importance of the Iraqi and American forces working together.

As the U.S. Army transitions into more of an advisory capacity, this training brings the IA closer to the goal of an independently secure Iraq.

“The Iraqi Commando element is very motivated and as committed to seeing the end of terrorism as we are,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Evans, a Black Dragon Soldier from Detroit. “These men are hard-working people who are ready to meet any challenges head on.”

THE Mountain View

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Media queries please contact TF Mountain Public Affairs at MND-Center_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil

Contributing Units

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 doctors share knowledge



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson

Dr. Mohammed, a general surgeon at the Karama Hospital, shows video of a gallbladder removal surgery to members of the 848th FST. Lt. Col. Sue Springer, certified registered nurse anesthetist, said Dr. Mohammed conducted the surgery nearly identical to how the surgery is conducted in the United States.

SGT. 1ST CLASS JOE THOMPSON
41ST FB



FOB DELTA – Iraqi doctors at the Karama Hospital in Kut discussed surgery procedures and techniques with members of the 848th Forward Surgical Team March 5.

The visit was part of Operation Gunner Med, a joint medical civil-military operation between the Wasit Director General of Health and the 41st Fires Brigade, designed to restore medical capabilities in Wasit and bring medical care up to the regional health care standard.

Five different Iraqi doctors presented their cases to the U.S. team, shared how they conducted their surgeries and discussed the issues they face at the

Karama Hospital.

“Our problem here is the tools,” said Dr. Dhafer, a general surgeon at the hospital. “If you give us the tools, then we can do our job.”

The equipment and instruments the doctors use at the Karama Hospital are out of date and they do not have the supplies needed to perform surgeries the same way as in the United States, according to Dhafer.

“They are doing the best they can,” said Lt. Col. Sue Springer, certified registered nurse anesthetist, 848th FST. “They are using sutures and supplies in such modification that it could impact the health care of the patient, but they are trying their best.”

Administration and admittance procedures are also a problem at the hospital, said Dhafer.

“Some staff do not coordinate with us, such as the emergency room staff, and they do not know how to prioritize the patients,” said Dhafer.

The 848th FST cannot supply the doctors with the medical equipment they need, but they can help to train their medical staff on prioritization of patients, said Lt. Col. Paul Perlik, orthopedic surgeon, 848th FST.

“We have to figure out some way to give them a leg up to help their system without doing it for them,” said Perlik. “I am going to recommend that we continue this effort and work at the lower level in training the support personnel and also set up a program where the doctors can come to the FOB and do elective surgeries here so they can have access to equipment and continue to share their knowledge with us.”

Staff Section Round-up

Family life minute: Details, details, details

Details, details, details. It is said that the devil is in the details. Sometimes we would like to avoid the details both on the job and at home. Unfortunately, it happens more often than not in our home life rather than at work.

Attention to detail with your spouse or significant other is extremely important if you wish to maintain a positive relationship with that person. If you do not pay attention to how your partner feels loved and respected, your relationship will begin to experience danger signs. Some of those are con-

tempt, dissatisfaction, and bitterness. What can be done?

You must knock yourself out serving your partner by finding out what is important in his or her life. Find out what truly makes your partner feel loved and cared for. It may be the need for quality time, a gift here or there, or a small act of service. Remember, the angels are in the details as we "climb to glory."

Ch. (Major) Paul Ramsey, MND-C Family Life Chaplain



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente (Left to right) Pfc. Cordell Bates, Pfc. Bobby Haines, Pfc. Don Chappell and Spc. Heath Stapley take part in a Rock Band competition at Camp Echo March 5. Bates, a petroleum specialist, hails from Fishers, Ind. Haines and Chappell, mechanics, reside in Salem, Ore., and Heath, also a mechanic, resides in Mesa, Ariz. They are all Soldiers of the 2nd Combined Arms Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT. The event was organized by Pfc. Nick Dane, an MP with the 110th. "We have a lot of people who play in my unit and other units here...so I wanted to put together a competition," said Dane, a resident of Lake George, N.Y. "It gets Soldiers together and gets morale up for them after coming off of missions."

The CG wants YOUR input about a new blog!

The CG wants to set up another blog in addition to The Mountain Sound-Off, with the topics and discussion on the new blog driven by YOU - the Soldiers, Family members and community partners.

We'd like your thoughts on how you want this new blog to work: How do we choose topics for discussion? How often should we update the topic? Do we limit participation? Do we limit topics to just military matters? What do we call it? Etc.

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

www.taskforcemountain.com



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Headline Round-up

World News:

SEOUL, South Korea - Japan hinted Friday it could down an incoming North Korean rocket, but analysts dismissed the talk as bluster and said the communist country will go ahead with a planned April satellite launch. The North announced this week that it will send a satellite into orbit between April 4-8, saying it would fly over Japan and designate a "danger" zone off the neighboring country in order to warn international shipping and aviation to avoid the area. The rocket's first stage is expected to fall in waters less than 75 miles from Japan's northwestern shore, according to coordinates Pyongyang provided to U.N. agencies. The other zone where the second stage should fall lies in the middle of the Pacific Ocean between Japan and Hawaii.

U.S. News:

PHOENIX - A former janitor was convicted Friday of murdering six people and attacking 19 others in dozens of random nighttime shootings of pedestrians, bicyclists and animals that terrorized this desert city over a 14-month period in 2005 and 2006. The convictions conclude the first phase of the six-month trial of Dale Shawn Hausner, the main suspect in metropolitan Phoenix's Serial Shooter attacks. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against Hausner, whose penalty phase begins March 23. Hausner scratched out notes and whispered to one of his attorneys as jurors delivered guilty verdicts on 80 of 86 charges against him. He also was acquitted in two killings.

Entertainment:

SPOKANE, Washington - The mysterious mewling in Vickie Mendenhall's home started about the time she bought a used couch for \$27. After days of searching for the source of the noise, she found a very hungry calico cat living in her sofa. The Spokesman-Review reported that her boyfriend, Chris Lund, was watching TV on Tuesday night and felt something move inside the couch. He pulled it away from the wall, lifted it up and found the cat, which apparently had crawled through a small hole on the underside. Mendenhall contacted the store where she bought the couch, but it had no information on who donated it. She took the cat to the animal shelter where she works so it could recover and contacted media outlets in hopes of finding the owner. Sure enough, Bob Killion of Spokane showed up to claim the cat on Thursday after an acquaintance alerted him to a TV story about it.

Quote of the Day

"Do not be fooled into believing that because a man is rich he is necessarily smart. There is ample proof to the contrary." - Julius Rosenwald

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



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

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 @ w8 a.m. T-shirts awarded to top finishers.

Babylon Theater

March 16

Newcomers Brief @ 1 p.m.

March 17

Fire Warden Class @ 1 p.m.

Fire Extinguisher Class @ 2 p.m.

March 20

Town Hall Meeting @ 1 p.m.

Freedom Chapel

Sundays

Protestant (Traditional) @ 10 a.m.

Roman Catholic Mass @ 12 p.m.

LDS service @ 2 p.m.

Eastern Orthodox @ 4 p.m.

Protestant (Contemporary) @ 12 p.m.

Mondays

A History of Christianity @ 7 p.m.

Tuesdays

God & the Military @ 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Guitar Lessons @ 7 p.m.

Thursdays

Catholic Choir practice @ 5:30 p.m.

Fridays

Catholic hour @ 6:30 p.m.