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IP dog handlers begin training

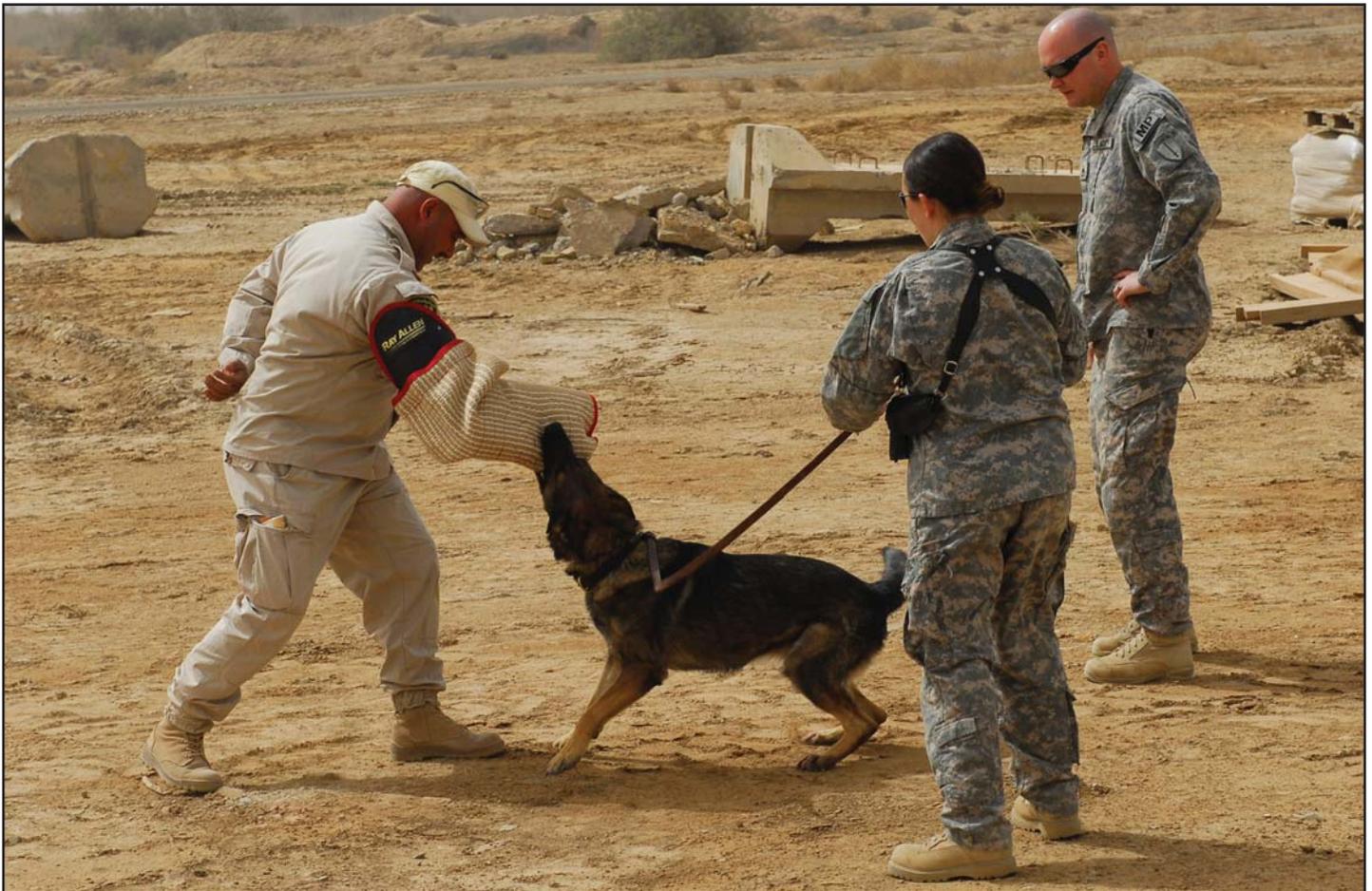


Photo by Sgt. Allison Churchill

Iraqi Police Sgt. Sarug Sa'ad Hamed practices using a bite wrap while Senior Airman Jamie Everetts, military working dog handler assigned to 78th SFS at Robins AFB, Ga., and native of Holt, Mich., controls her dog and Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Oliver, MWD NCOIC, of Kingsport, Tenn. observes March 25 on FOB Delta.

SGT. ALLISON CHURCHILL
41ST FB



FOB DELTA – Four Iraqi policemen took their next step to becoming dog handlers March 25 on FOB Delta.

The team will be the first in Iraq once their dogs arrive from the United States.

Once the Iraqis master leash control, they'll be several steps ahead of other students when they begin training at a school in Baghdad run by the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, said Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Oliver, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the FOB Delta military working dog team.

The team started their training by leading buckets on

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TRAINING: *IP dog handlers begin training*

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leashes and practicing commands and praise. After the Iraqis were accustomed to commanding their buckets, the American dog handlers demonstrated the bite-wrap and attack suit.

This early training has given the IPs an opportunity to adjust to working in English, which is important since the dogs come from the U.S.

The school in Baghdad will be able to accommodate this training also, as it has several American instructors on staff, said Oliver, who's assigned to 209th MP Detachment from Fort Benning, Ga.

Five dog handlers were chosen from 27 policemen who volunteered.

"I love it! I love dogs," said Sgt. Sarug Sa'ad Hamed, one of the handler volunteers.

Hamed, who has been a policeman for four years, was the first volunteer to wear the attack suit.

The class on FOB Delta is planned for Mondays and Wednesdays until the Iraqi dog handlers begin their training in Baghdad.

THE Mountain View

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 Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
 Task Force 449



Patrolling the streets of Tunis

Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class James Wagner
(Right) Staff Sgt. Ryan Dabel of Colorado Springs, Colo., and 3rd Plt., C Troop, 1st Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., and an Iraqi Policeman from Tunis pull security along a road recently. **(Below)** Soldiers from 3rd Plt., C Troop, 1st Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., pull security around a Sons of Iraq checkpoint during a combined patrol recently.



Engineers help 'plant' a better future in southern Iraq



Photo by Spc. Rebekah Lampman

1st Lt. Devens Vogt, Civil Capacity Officer for 14th Engineer Battalion, listens as a politician from Dhi Qar Province in southern Iraq asks a question about the new Nasiriyah Tree Nursery during its opening ceremony recently.

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



COB ADDER – Baseel Ali, Deputy Director of Agriculture for the Dhi Qar Province, cut a red ribbon at the Nasiriyah Tree-Nursery to officially open the facility recently.

Just four months earlier, this location was an empty dirt and gravel lot. Today, it consists of two greenhouses used for planting vegetables and a fenced-off area for growing trees.

“This will support our province and will greatly benefit us,” said Abdul Salih the Director of Agriculture. “We thank the Americans for everything they’ve done.”

The nursery can produce up to 50,000 vegetable and 4,000 tree seedlings each year. Once these seedlings reach their maximum growth, they’re sold to local farmers.

“This is an incredibly rewarding position,” said 1st Lt. De-

vens Vogt, civil capacity officer for 14th Engineer Battalion. “I feel it is a rare opportunity to be able to directly affect hundreds of thousands of people’s lives on a daily basis.”

The 14th Eng. Bn. partnered with the 555th Eng. Bn. to oversee the project, which was funded by the Commander’s Emergency Response Program, a U.S. government-funded incentive to provide assistance to the Iraqis.

The two engineer battalions are also teaming up to build bee and date farms to produce honey and fruit next to the nursery.

“This is another way we can leave a proud and lasting impression,” said Vogt, a native of Saxtons River, Vt. “We have to be able to foster a credible relationship with our young Iraqi Construction Engineers.”

For the citizens of Nasiriyah, the nursery means more than just planting trees and vegetables; they’re planting the hope of a better life in southern Iraq.

Headline Round-up

World News:

MELBOURNE, Australia - A Virgin Blue jet was hit several times by lightning just after takeoff and returned to the Melbourne airport for an emergency landing. An airport spokeswoman said no one was injured in the March 28 afternoon incident. The 737 jet was just 10 minutes into its journey to Tasmania when it was hit. The plane was carrying 117 passengers and six crew. It immediately turned around and made an emergency landing.

U.S. News:

MONTPELIER, Vt. - After impassioned pleas from gay and lesbian legislators sharing their own love stories in front of hundreds of partisans packing the chamber, the Vermont House on March 27 advanced a bill that would allow same-sex couples to marry. Rep. Jason Lorber, D-Burlington, told of seeing his and his partner's civil union announcement in the newspaper in a "civil union" category separate from the marriage announcements. "Why do we have to differentiate?" a weeping Lorber asked his House colleagues. "Why do we have to say you are different? Why can't we just say 'Congratulations'" when same-sex couples wed.

Entertainment News:

NBC's "ER" ended its 15-year run Thursday much like it began, with a pulse-quickening symphony of life and death. The medical drama earned a record 122 Emmy Award nominations since 1994, and its final episode mixed current cast members with old favorites from when it was television's mightiest hit. "So? This is it?" an elderly man played by Ernest Borgnine said to John Stamos' Dr. Gates as the woman he'd loved since the sixth grade died in front of him. The two-hour finale, written by old "ER" hand John Wells, had moments of dark humor and a career-questioning tragedy of a mother of five dying shortly after she gave birth to twin girls. The show left unanswered the question of whether a teenage girl put into a coma from a drinking binge would be brain-damaged.

Quote of the Day

"The heathen in his blindness must end where he began. But the backbone of the Army is the non-commissioned man!" - Rudyard Kipling

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	9			6			7

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



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Fishbowl Gym

April 11

Pirate's Cove Run 5K/10K.

Registration begins @ 7 a.m.,

race begins @ 8 a.m.

T-shirts awarded to top

finishers.

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.