



The Mountain View

www.taskforcemountain.com

May 14, 2009

An issue dedicated to Soldiers' stories

IPs, MPs partner to improve community relations



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson

Sgt. Stephen Barden from Hull, Mass., 2nd Squad, 2nd Plt., 772nd MP Co., transfers backpacks to the IP truck before "Operation Backpack" kicks off at the Sukaina School for Girls recently.

SGT. 1ST CLASS JOE THOMPSON
41ST FB



FOB DELTA – Iraqi and Military Police partnered for "Operation Backpack," delivering more than 250 backpacks filled with school supplies to the Sukaina School for Girls recently.

IPs from the Old Izza police station in Kut led the humanitarian aid mission while Soldiers from 2nd Squad,

2nd Platoon, 772nd MP Company helped by delivering the backpacks to the IPs who then handed out the bags at the school.

"This is very beneficial to the students because they are getting supplies to help them with school," said Suhad Naeen Hethel, school manager.

"It is also good because it shows the cooperation between the Iraqi Police and Coalition forces."

The school is located right next to

the Old Izza police station, and the station commander said he hopes these types of projects will help the school-aged children's perceptions of Coalition forces.

"Today went very well and I hope to continue to do these types of projects in the future so that the children see that they should throw flowers at the Coalition forces . . . because of all the help

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RELATIONS

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the Coalition forces have given them,” said Lt. Col. Thanwan, Old Izza IP station commander.

Community policing missions are different than the normal police training missions the MPs normally concentrate on.

According to 1st Lt. Tyler Field, platoon leader, 2nd Plt., these missions play an important role by improving the IPs relations with the community.

“The IPs were the ones handing everything out and the children, along with the teachers, saw the IPs giving back to the community,” said Field, of Bridgewater, Mass. “It’s going to go a long way with community policing.”

Operation Backpack is scheduled with other IP stations the 772nd MP Co. partners with and it’s always good when they get to do something that benefits the community.

“I just enjoy doing this stuff,” said Sgt. Matthew Dubuc, squad leader, 2nd Squad, 2nd Plt.

“Just seeing the smiles on the kids faces definitely means a lot,” added Dubuc, a Pawtucket, R.I. resident. “It shows that they really appreciate what we try to do for them.”



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson
IPs from the Old Izza police station form a chain, handing out backpacks to the students at the Sukaina School for Girls.

She’s got the cap and gown,
 she’s just waiting to hear from you.

Send your grad a personal greeting
 May 13-14 and tell them how
 proud you are!

Contact SSG Kristen King
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THE Mountain View

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Long Knives complete marathon in Maysan

1st Lt. JUSTIN BISHOP
4th BCT, 1st CAV. DIV.



FOB HUNTER – Twenty U.S. Soldiers stationed here displayed their running endurance as they participated in the “Mighty Maysan Marathon” recently.

“We wanted to give Soldiers a break from a high op-tempo, while also giving them something to be proud of once they return home,” said 1st Lt. Andrey Postrigan, of Plano, Texas. Postrigan, a platoon leader in 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division ‘Long Knives’ was the assistant organizer and winner of the marathon.

Postrigan was one of only five Soldiers to complete the entire 26.2 miles, the distance for a standard marathon.

Approximately 80 percent of the participants signed up to complete a half marathon.

“I was glad that nearly all of my platoon came out to run with me today,” said Sgt. Timothy Connolly, Battery A, 5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt., winner of the half marathon.

“I never thought I would have been



Photo by 1st Lt. Justin Bishop

Capt. Kenneth Evans and 1st Lt. Andrey Postrigan, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, run the “Mighty Maysan Marathon” on FOB Hunter recently.

able to do something like this while deployed.”

Capt. Kenneth Evans, another Long Knife leader, was the main organizer of

the Mighty Maysan Marathon.

Soldiers who competed the race received a shirt to commemorate the event.

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Weapon safety: every Soldier's concern

SGT. DEBRALEE P. CRANKSHAW
MND-S



COB BASRA – Safety is an important issue, especially when it comes to live ammunition and loaded weapons. Any unsafe act could result in the loss of life or limb.

Weapon safety is covered throughout a Soldier's Army career. It is heavily focused on because it is important to remain vigilant and avoid complacency.

According to a Boston Globe article on May 3 American troops are less likely to die from insurgents than from accidents, natural causes and "nonhostile" incidents. These statistics were compiled by the Department of Defense from September to April.

The major cause for accidents and injuries are lack of self-discipline, failure to enforce standards and inadequate training, according to the U.S. Army Safety Center. The most com-

mon injury producing areas of weapons handling are the failure to follow procedures, improper or inadequate clearing, untimely loading and unloading, personnel in the path of recoil or back-blast and fratricide.

Statistics show that although vehicle rollover deaths have decreased, they have been offset by weapons accidents and suicides.

Due to this, deaths by nonhostile causes have maintained a rate of 100 to 175 per year.

There have been 21 negligent discharges in Iraq since January, according to Lt. Col. James Tovsen, Multi-National Division—South command safety director from Prior Lake, Minn. The leading cause is failure to properly clear weapons.

"(It's a Soldier's) personal responsibility to clear their weapon properly, starting with dropping or removing the magazine," said Tovsen.

"Many times complacency has set in after a long hard day. That person's

most significant step is to drop that magazine."

Another mistake people make is failing to properly visually check the chamber, he added.

Proper weapon handling is accomplished by noncommissioned officers mentoring their Soldiers on firearm safety.

"It's important at the NCO level to check Soldiers' weapons to ensure there are no misfires," said Tovsen. "Make sure they clean their weapons and know the proper clearing procedures."

Other tips the U.S. Army Safety Center suggest are ensuring weapons are always oriented away from troops, equipment and facilities and remind Soldiers to handle all weapons as though they are loaded. While the most damage will come from a discharge, the muzzle is not the only area to be concerned with, according to Tovsen. The buttstock can also cause injury and damage to people and property in the area. He stresses situational awareness to avoid this.

**The Red Bulls
can be found
on a cell phone.**

(Tell family and friends.)

mobile.TheRedBulls.org



Headline Round-up

World News:

BAGHDAD - An American Army sergeant shot and killed five fellow Soldiers following an altercation at a counseling center on a military base in Iraq May 11, officials said. The attack drew attention to the issues of combat stress and morale among Soldiers serving multiple combat tours over six years of war. The suspect had been disarmed after an earlier incident at the center but returned with another weapon, according to a senior military official in Washington, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation into the shootings was ongoing. Attacks on fellow Soldiers, known as fraggings, were not uncommon during the Vietnam war but are believed to be rare in Iraq and Afghanistan. A brief U.S. statement said the assailant was taken into custody following the 2 p.m. shooting at Camp Liberty, a sprawling U.S. base on the western edge of Baghdad near the city's international airport.

U.S. News:

Sarah Palin is writing a tell-all. Or at least a tell-some. The Associate Press reports that the Alaskan governor and former vice presidential candidate has signed a deal with Harper Colins to pen a memoir for publication in the spring of 2010 (which happens to be when she runs for reelection in Alaska). Palin tells the AP: "Being a voracious reader, I read a lot today and have read a lot growing up. And having that journalism degree, all of that, will be a great assistance for me in writing this book, talking about the challenges and the joys, balancing the work and parenting, and, in my case, work means running the state."

Odd News:

PORTLAND, Ore. - A quadriplegic confined to a wheelchair got a \$360 ticket for parking in a handicapped spot May 11. Gordon Pike said a volunteer enforcement team from Washington County confiscated his disabled placard after telling him the card was invalid. Pike was hurt in Vietnam in 1969 and has been in a wheelchair ever since. He said he doesn't understand who the disabled parking spots are for if he doesn't qualify. "(It) kind of wrecked my day," Pike said. "What are these spaces for? If they're not for me, who are they for, you know?"

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



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

DFAC 1 Worship
 Sunday
 Roman Catholic Mass, UK led @ 9:30 a.m.
 General Protestant @ 11 a.m.
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saint @ 2 p.m.
 General Protestant @ 6:30 p.m.

DFAC 3 Worship
 Sunday
 Gospel Worship @ 2 p.m.

DFAC 4 Worship
 Monday - Saturday
 Daily Mass @ 8 p.m.
 Sunday
 Protestant Contemporary
 Worship @ 10 a.m.
 Holy communion, Protestant (UK) @ 11:30 a.m.
 Roman Catholic Mass, UK led @ 8:30 p.m.

MWR Stage
 May 15
 Rock on Dude, 34th ID Band @ 7 p.m.
 May 16
 Basra Idol @ 6 p.m.
 To audition contact CW2 Meeks at 858-4526 or email robert.l.meeks@iraq.centcom.mil

The Norris Roundhouse
 "The only time Chuck Norris has to use a stunt double is when he does crying scenes."

