

# CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

DECEMBER 2007

## NO SALUTING IN THEATRE

THE SALUTE has always been the traditional military greeting, but the Afghan theatre is a 'no hat, no salute' area for many coalition forces.

Historically, the salute has always been a symbol of respect. It is believed that this custom started in the Middle Ages. A knight exposed his face to another person to show friendship. He did this by raising the visor on his helmet with his right hand. Most importantly, his right hand was removed from the area of his weapon.

The salute is no longer allowed in the Afghan theatre for security reasons. In the past, enemy observers collected intelligence about rank structure. They used this information to identify possible targets.

This safety precaution will make it difficult for enemy observers to identify the commanders and the officers on the camp or out in the field. However, non-commissioned soldiers are still permitted to salute officers when they are indoors.

## PIRATE ATTACK THWARTED

A NUMBER OF CIVILIAN VESSELS have been hijacked in waters around the Somali coastline. Recently, pirates have also attacked vessels in nearby waters.

A British Navy warship saved a civilian cruise liner from a potential pirate attack in the Arabian Sea. The British Navy was on a coalition patrol when it received a request for help from the civilian cruise liner. The Royal Navy dispatched a maritime attack helicopter to the scene. The helicopter intercepted the pirates and prevented the attack.

Passengers on board the cruise liner were reassured by the presence of the Royal Navy. The commander of the ship thanked the Royal Navy for its assistance.

Coalition warships could deter pirate attacks in the future. Their presence will protect vessels transiting through the area.

## NEW HIGH-TECH HOWITZER

THE NEW M777 HOWITZER will soon be delivered to U.S. Army and Marine units in Iraq.

The new howitzer is designed to be carried beneath an aircraft or a helicopter, and on board Navy ships. The M777 was designed for mobile forces that need to deploy quickly. Additionally, it is well suited for moving around the battlefield.

The 30-foot gun is manufactured by BAE Systems. It is made of titanium and is much lighter than the M19. This lighter weight will improve firepower.

In addition, the M777 has a digital firing system, a navigation system, and SINGARS radios. This upgraded software will also allow a howitzer to locate itself with a map.

## BANGLADESH CYCLONE RELIEF

THE 22<sup>ND</sup> MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT aboard the USS Kearsarge is currently on mission in Bangladesh. They are responding to a request from the government of Bangladesh.

The country was recently hit by a tropical cyclone that caused more than 3,000 casualties, and left thousands homeless. The cyclone also destroyed the crops and seriously damaged the infrastructure.

The Marine unit is providing disaster relief. This will begin with the delivery of necessary materials to the country.

Even though they do not speak the same language, the Marine unit and the Bangladeshi soldiers are working as a team. Marine helicopters are delivering bottled water to the country, while the Marines and the Bangladeshi soldiers on the ground are unloading the water from the aircraft.

Graveland, Bill, No Saluting for Soldiers in Theatre of War, *The Canadian Press*, November 16, 2007

[http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/War\\_Terror/2007/11/16/4661117-cp.html](http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/War_Terror/2007/11/16/4661117-cp.html)

*Coalition Warship Thwarts Pirate Attack in Arabian Sea*, Navy NewsStand, November 25, 2007

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2007/11/mil-071125-nns02.htm>

Osborne, Kris. *New Howitzer Makes Combat Debut in Iraq*, DefenseNews, October 8, 2007

Miller, Peter *Marine Unit Provides Cyclone Relief in Bangladesh*, American Forces Press Service, November 26 2007

[http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2007/11/11-26\\_index.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2007/11/11-26_index.htm)

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## Student Worksheet

### *Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary*

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to the definitions on the right.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 custom          | a) to prevent   |
| 2 to hijack       | b) the set of public systems of a region, including buildings and equipment |
| 3 visor           | c) possible   |
| 4 precaution      | d) to stop something before it happens                                      |
| 5 vessel          | e) a practice common to many people in a particular place                   |
| 6 cruise liner    | f) a watercraft bigger than a rowboat                                       |
| 7 potential       | g) the capacity to fire on a target effectively                             |
| 8 to dispatch     | h) a ship belonging to a regular line                                       |
| 9 to intercept    | i) actions taken in advance to prevent harm or secure good                  |
| 10 to deter       | j) to quickly send off or away  |
| 11 firepower      | k) to steal a vehicle in transit  |
| 12 infrastructure | l) the front piece of a helmet  |

### *Task 2: comprehension check*

Write short answers to the following questions:

- 1 Why is the salute prohibited in the Afghan theatre?
- 2 Why is it dangerous to salute?
- 3 What is the danger on the Somali coastline?
- 4 What did the British Navy warship do?
- 5 What is the new role of coalition warships?
- 6 How is the M777 different from the 'old' howitzer?
- 7 What is the current situation in Bangladesh?
- 8 What is the Marine unit doing in Bangladesh?

### *Task 3: discussion*

The first article in this month's Campaign News Digest focuses on a military tradition. Give an oral presentation describing a military custom, courtesy or tradition in your country. You can use this website to help you: <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/policy/army/fm/7-21-13/chap4.htm#4-1>.

### *Task 4: writing*

The second article is a news report about an incident on the Somali coastline. Write a report of about 200 words about a recent incident. You can use this website to help you: <http://www.voanews.com/english/categories.cfm>. Choose a news report and take note of the key information. Then use your notes to write a report of about 200 words in your own words.

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## Teacher's Notes

### *Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary*

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to a definition on the right. Encourage students to try to deduce the meaning of the words from the context using clues from the text.

1	custom	e)	a practice common to many people in a particular place
2	to hijack	k)	to steal a vehicle in transit
3	visor	l)	the front piece of a helmet
4	precaution	i)	actions taken in advance to prevent harm or secure good
5	vessel	f)	a watercraft bigger than a rowboat
6	cruise liner	h)	a ship belonging to a regular line
7	potential	c)	possible
8	to dispatch	j)	to quickly send off or away
9	to intercept	d)	to stop something before it happens
10	to deter	a)	to prevent
11	firepower	g)	the capacity to fire on a target effectively
12	infrastructure	b)	the set of public systems of a region, including buildings and equipment

### *Task 2: comprehension check: short answer questions*

Write short answers to the following questions.

- 1 It is dangerous / it is a safety precaution / for security reasons / lessons learned.
- 2 Enemy observers can identify the commanders and officers as targets.
- 3 Ships are being hijacked and attacked by pirates.
- 4 It sent a helicopter to the scene and prevented the attack.
- 5 They patrol the waters to protect civilian vessels.
- 6 It is lighter; it is more mobile; it fires more effectively; it is equipped with upgraded software.
- 7 People are homeless, crops have been destroyed and infrastructure has been damaged by a tropical cyclone.
- 8 They are providing disaster relief and sending humanitarian aid to the people.

### Task 3: discussion

Ask your students to prepare an oral presentation about a military tradition, custom or courtesy of their own country. Encourage the students to choose different traditions. They can use this website as a reference:

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/policy/army/fm/7-21-13/chap4.htm#4-1>

This site is a good source of information about U.S. military traditions, customs and courtesies.

This is a speaking exercise, so it is not necessary for the students to rewrite the information in sentence form. Encourage your students to note down key information only and to give their presentations from their notes. You may want to go around the class, providing input where necessary. Encourage your students to rehearse their presentations before delivering them to the class.

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You may want to review oral presentation skills before the students organize their presentations

## *Task 4: writing*

This writing task is designed for your students to develop their reporting skills without focusing on any specific report format. Remind your students that a report should be clear and concise, and answer the questions: Who, What, When, Where and Why.

Direct your students to the following website and ask them each to choose a different article to research: <http://www.voanews.com/english/categories.cfm>. This website is particularly good for its simple but authentic news reports. Instruct them to take notes on the key information and then use their notes to write a report. Encourage them to use their own words to reconstruct the text.

Alternatively, you could set this as a listening and writing task. Rather than using the written news reports as input for their reports, you could ask your students to listen to the reports and take notes on the key information they hear. They could then reconstruct the text from their notes.

You could extend this activity further by asking the students to present their reports orally to the class. You might want to assign different news reports to each student to make the presentations more interesting for the rest of the class. You may want to ask the class to prepare questions to ask at the end of each individual presentation.