

The North Star

Serving Task Force Marne
U. S. Division- North, Iraq



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Mosul sees brighter future ahead



Photo by Pfc. Jason Aglietti, 2BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO
Private 1st Class Joshua Ashwander from, 1st Bn., 36th Inf., 1BCT, 1st AD provides security outside an IA Bde. headquarters in Mosul, Dec. 22.

By Pfc. Jason B. Aglietti,
2BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

The citizens of Mosul continue to see improvements in security and infrastructure, as Iraqi Security Forces team up with American Soldiers. Mosul and its surrounding areas are on track for significant upgrades before the withdrawal of U.S. forces.

Among the top priorities for Iraqi and American leaders are improvements to the water filtration facilities, sewage systems, and the overall infrastructure, while continuing to counter the insurgency that still plagues one of Iraq's most critically important cities.

Although there is room for improvement, the leaps and bounds Iraq has made over the past few years are noticed by every servicemember who has ever deployed here.

"This country has improved dramatically," said Staff Sgt. Wilbert Tynes, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division which is currently stationed at Forward Operating Base Marez inside the city.

Staff Sergeant Tynes, who deployed to Iraq in 2004-2005, is greatly impressed with the direction Iraq is headed.

"The presence of both the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police are everywhere. Their results have been so successful that it has allowed us all to have positive control and results in the area," he said.

The battalion is organized to help support the city. Together, Iraqi Security Forces and American Soldiers have been conducting street patrols

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U.S. Soldiers, IP, compare weapons systems

By Pfc. Jessica Luhrs,
1BCT, 1st AD PAO

The Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, "Barbarians" and the officers of the Meghdad Iraqi Police Station, taught each other how to use and perform basic functions to their weapons at a range Dec. 29 for training on weapons systems.

The Meghdad IP and Soldiers received training on disassembling and assembling of the IP's Avtomat Kalashnikova 47 (AK-47) and the

"I think this training shows we work together with uniformity; we know their weapons they know ours."

-Specialist Jason Myers, 1st Bn., 30th Inf.

"Barbarians" M4 and how to also shoot each other's weapons safely and efficiently, according to Pfc. Mason Casper, a native of Portland, Ore., and a infantryman with the "Barbarians."

"I'm glad we have this opportunity to train our Meghdad IP partners on the use of these different weapons systems," said 1st Lt. Gavin Shnieder, a native of Milton, Wash., and the 2nd platoon leader with Co. B "Not only

did we successfully complete the training we were able to bond as partners."

"I think this training shows we work together with uniformity; we know their weapons, they know ours," said Spc. Jason Myers, a native of Anderson, Ind., and an infantryman with the "Barbarians."

The "Barbarians" were all very im-

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and assessing infrastructure issues to best help the citizens of Iraq.

"The Iraqi Army and its Soldiers are very receptive and very appreciative of the [American] Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Matthew Stanton, who is attached to the Spartan brigade and helps support the local Iraqi Army Brigade. "[The Iraqi Soldiers] particularly like the high level of mission readiness and skills the American Soldiers bring to them."

In the short time the battalion has been operating in the area, Soldiers have been escorting important members of the Army Civil Affairs teams around the city. This mission is important because of the direct and immediate effect it has on all of Mosul's citizens.

"It's good to be directly helping their lives," said Pfc. Jeremiah Richardson, of Bulldog Company, and a member of these patrols. "I like being

a part of this; giving back control of Iraq to its people."

Both nations hope to continue these patterns of civil improvement in Mosul while the violence decreases. Regardless of any threat, each Soldier sees the greater goal before them and stands ready.

"It even benefits us because we are here to change their lives so that they can have a better Iraq and a better world," said Staff Sgt. Tynes.

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Photos by Pfc. Jessica Luhrs, 1BCT, 1st AD PAO

Top: Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Co. B, 1st Bn., 30th Inf. Regt., run with their Meghdad IP partners, in order to perform stress training at the range on Dec. 29, near Kirkuk. Bottom: A Soldier of 2nd Platoon, Co. B, 1st Bn., 30th Inf. Regt., shows his Meghdad Iraqi Police partners, how to assemble and disassemble weapons during the joint training at the range Dec. 29.

pressed the Meghdad IP put together an efficient and safe range, said 1st Lt. Shnieder. It shows how quickly they are already making progress.

This progress can be attributed to the partnership with the U.S. forces and the training the Meghdad IP do every day, according to 1st Lt. Ali Adnan, the training officer for the Meghdad IP.

Every day the Meghdad IP receive training in either first aid, arrest techniques, weapon techniques, human rights, maintenance of weapons and 30 others, according to 1st Lt. Ali.

The training is part of a much broader cooperation between Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. forces.

"This training today has truly benefited the Meghdad IP, we have all learned so much from the training today and are looking forward to continuing this partnership with the U.S. forces," said 1st Lt. Adnan.



Specialist Adams goes to the movies**Clichéd '2012' fun, disaster action film**

By Spc. Michael Adams
Task Force Marne movie critic

In an era when almost every major movie, from "Transformers" to "Independence Day," seems to have an internationally renowned structure like the White House or the Eiffel Tower getting destroyed in a cataclysmic event, "2012" on the surface seems no different.

This movie, full of film clichés, manages to be entertaining.

John Cusack is the lead in this disaster movie. Here, he plays a down-and-out author with two children and an ex-wife who is now with another man. I wish Hollywood could imagine something a little different.

His lead character is a carbon copy in some aspects of Will Smith's character in "Independence Day." The only difference is Smith's character, in the ultra-blockbuster of the 1990s, was happily married and successful. Cusack's character, is divorced, or so the movie implies, and he is down on his luck. But he still has two children and the wife is remarried.

In southern California (again, clichés, how many movies have been set in southern California? Well, yes, "Independence Day" and in part even the "Transformers" series. Why can't they have a movie set somewhere else? Perhaps it can be set in a small town in Iowa, a different big city, like Philadelphia, but anything different.

But that is the least appealing story

line in this solid action movie that manages to be a little intelligent.

The action starts right away with a scientist, Dr. Adrian Helmsley discovering that something bad is going to happen to Earth, not just a small part of Earth, all of it. He reports this information to a person high up in the president's cabinet (Oliver Platt). From there, they begin a plan to monitor the Earth and devise a plan to save the people on the planet.

The movie is surprisingly believable in its characterizations. Platt is very good as an overzealous aristocrat who cared more about the bottom line than for humanity.

Danny Glover, a longtime character actor/leading man, probably best known to audiences as Detective Riggs from the "Lethal Weapon" series, has a very good turn as the American president. His performance is one of the better acting bright spots in this film. Woody Harrelson plays a conspiracy nut who predicts the global doom from the Mayan Calendar.

He is somewhat the comic relief in this film. Possibly the funniest moment in the movie is when he shows Cusack's character an Internet movie he created of why the world is going to end. That is one of the movie's few attempts at humor. This movie takes the end of the world very seriously.

As the movie progresses, the world has banded together to create a series of spaceships to take people away from the impending destruction.

The movie does make a few attempts at having serious characterizations and drama. Platt's character seems to care only about the wealthy that financed the spaceship project to

save a select few. Dr. Helmsley wants to save more of the ordinary people with the spaceships.

Then there is the mandatory movie dog, who belongs to the voluptuous girlfriend of a Russian billionaire, who paid his way to save him and his girlfriend and joins Cusack's journey to the spaceship as he moves along. But this dog is a little dog that Parris Hilton is more likely to carry. I like the big dogs that run and jump over cars. This little dog can't do anything.

The thing that surprises me the most is, despite the clichés, the movie does have nice special effects. The directing and writing did give me a nice sense of urgency and definitely had me wondering what was going to happen next. The pace of the movie is very quick and there are enough story lines and plot twists that had my attention throughout the movie.

Overall, this movie will not compete against "Casablanca" or "In the Heat of the Night" to be the greatest movie ever made, but definitely entertaining and definitely worth seeing.

8 1/2 out of 10.



University of Maryland offers class on Speicher

MGST 160 is an introductory study of the skills required to effectively supervise and manage employees in organizations, such as planning, organization, controlling the work load and understanding worker behavior. Topics include the role and function of supervisors, recruitment and the evaluation of workers, management by objectives, task delegation, motivation strategies, training and professional development, communication and conflict management and time management

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Mr. Erik Nelson, of Orlando, Fla., supports U.S. Division - North as the night shift command post of the future lead and expertly ensures all CPOF technical software and hardware issues are quickly resolved. Additionally, he routinely conducts over the shoulder training and one-on-one training for the staff and virtual or collaborative training in support of both on- and off- site training requirements. His dedication to excellence is evident in his ability to complete weekly CPOF maintenance in a manner largely transparent to users. Because of his diligent efforts, CPOF experiences minimal down time, helping to keep the war fighter operational during all mission requirements. His willingness to serve and complete dedication to duty is commendable and makes him most deserving of the title of this week's Task Force Marne service provider of the week.

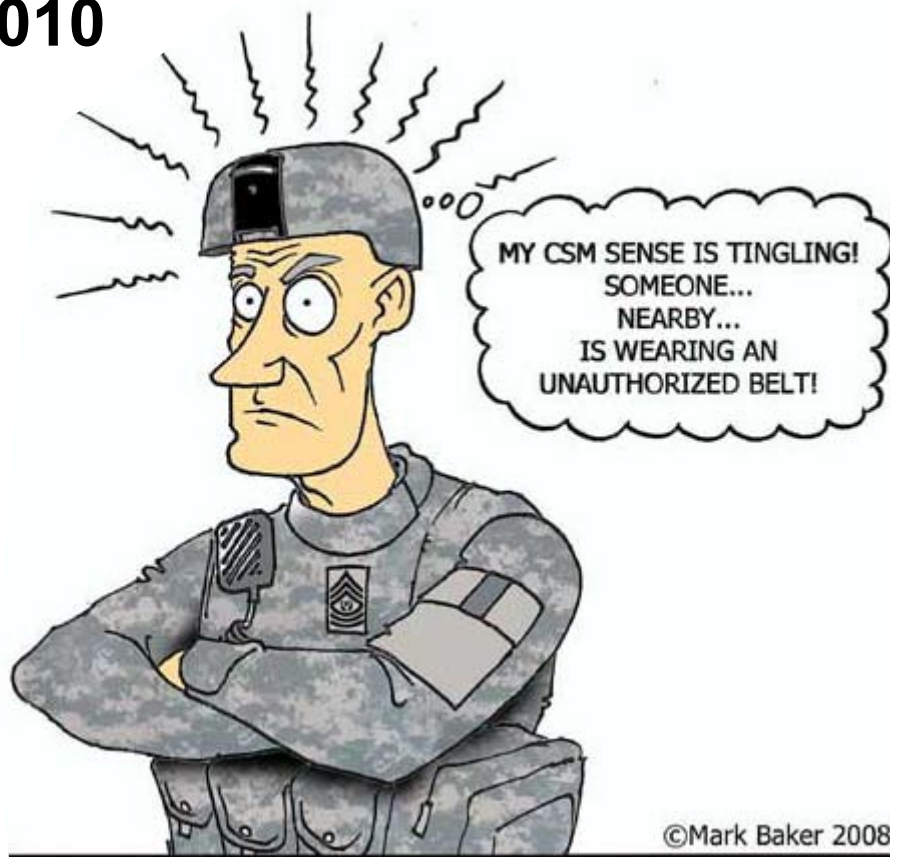


Specialist Vito Canestrelli, of Las Vegas, Nev., is a radio telephone operator for 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. Specialist Canestrelli is consistently one of the brightest performing Soldiers in his company. Over the deployment, he has been pivotal to the success of his unit. Specialist Canestrelli has recorded vital information that was key for his company's success to understanding the modern day battlefield and able to plan future missions in his area of operations. Specialist Canestrelli is very instrumental in making sure blue force trackers, single-channel ground air radio systems and tactical satellite equipment is in working order before, during, and after his unit goes on patrol.

Funny New Years Resolutions for 2010



- I will no longer waste my time relieving the past, instead I will spend it worrying about the future.
- I will not bore my boss by with the same excuse for taking leaves. I will think of some more excuses.
- I will do less laundry and use more deodorant.
- Always replace the gas nozzle before driving away from the pump.
- I will always wear clean underwear, "just in case".
- I will not tell the same story at every get together.
- I will not ring the stewardess button on airplanes just to get her phone number.
- I will answer my snail mail with the same enthusiasm with which I answer my e-mail.



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REGIONAL HEADLINES

Bad moves thwart Washington truck heist

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash.- Truck theft diary: — Take silver 1985 Chevy truck from City Transfer yard in Sumner, Wash., early Dec. 28, . Fill it with unleaded gasoline. Fail to notice it requires diesel.

- Call 911 for assistance when truck stalls shortly after noon Dec. 28 on State Route 167 in Renton area. Grab green reflector vest found in truck so as to appear to be actual City Transfer employee when help arrives.

- Have the misfortune to have a REAL City Transfer employee drive by and report location of stalled, stolen truck to police.

- Watch Washington State Patrol troopers arrive. Watch a real City Transfer employee who witnessed the theft arrive and describe the man he saw take the truck.

State Trooper Dan McDonald said Dec. 29 that a 19-year-old Tacoma man was booked into the King County Jail for investigation of auto theft. The truck was released to City Transfer.

Man in underwear uses stick to kill deer

United Press International

CLARKSVILLE, Ga.- A Georgia man said he knew just what to do when a wounded deer stumbled onto his property: He ran outside in boxers and flip-flops to kill it with a stick. Joel Borden, whose friends gave him

the nickname "Country" shortly after he moved to Clarksville from the town of Savannah, said the deer stumbled into his yard with a gunshot wound in its neck the morning of Dec. 26, Gannett Tennessee reported Tuesday.

"I killed it with a stick," Borden said. "My friends are making a big deal of it because I didn't have anything on but boxers and a pair of sandals."

He said he struck the animal repeatedly in the head, breaking off one of its antlers, before it lost consciousness and he used the stick to cut its throat.

Dale Grandstaff, an officer with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, said the agency recommends people either put wounded deer out of their misery or call authorities to deal with the situation.

Christmas tree swiped from Texas park

Seguin Gazette-Enterprise

SEGUIN, Texas — If Santa loads a little extra coal into his sleigh for the trip to Seguin next Christmas, police Detective Lt. Jerry Hernandez will understand why.

That's because someone early Dec. 27 backed a vehicle up to a Christmas tree in Central Park, threw it in the back and hauled it off.

Police were called to the park located behind the courthouse after a passer-by reported witnessing a red Chevy HHR backing up to a

city-owned tree placed there for the holidays.

Three men got out of the vehicle, threw the tree in the back and drove off, Hernandez said.

The witness who reported the theft got the license plate of the vehicle, Hernandez said, which will likely mean that if the three suspects had a good Christmas, their new year isn't likely to start on a positive note.

The investigation is ongoing.

Passport Information for COB Speicher

If you are planning on taking R&R overseas and your passport has expired or you have never been issued one, you can apply at COB Speicher. Passport applications are accepted at the Client Services Office in Conner Hall, Tuesday and Thursday 2. to 4p.m. and D-Main Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If an alternate time is needed, please contact the POC listed below for an appointment.

Information about passport applications can be found at www.us.state.gov. Application processing usually takes 30 days or less. Get your applications in early. Please contact Sergeant Major Ann Miller via DSN 849-0098, SVOIP 670-2150 or via email at ann.marie.miller@us.army.mil.

THE North Star

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1st Infantry Division
2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,
3rd Infantry Division

3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team,
2nd Infantry Division
1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team,
1st Armored Division

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