

# The North Star

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



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## Training bonds U.S., ISF

### Medics make IMPACT

By Pfc. Adrian Muehe  
3SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. PAO

U.S. Soldiers are making an impact on Iraqi Army Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq.

Soldiers from the Brigade Support Medical Company, 296th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division designed, "Iraqi Medical Partnership Advisory Comprehensive Training," a new curriculum designed to train Soldiers from the 5th IA Division on how to provide medical care to their fellow Soldiers.

The nine-day class includes a variety of medical courses comprised of advanced cardiac care, trauma burn management and physical therapy. It also teaches the Iraqi Soldiers how to use both the ultrasound and X-ray machine for diagnostic purposes.

"Overall, this whole program will have an enduring capacity for a better Iraq," said Capt. Fred Terrado, commander of the BSMC.



Photo by Pfc. Adrian Muehe, 3SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. PAO

**Staff Sergeant Carlington Hewitt, medical advisor to the 5th IA Div., demonstrates the Heimlich Maneuver on Sgt. Mustafa Ukla, during IMPACT training.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Alberts, 25CAB, 25th Inf. Div. PAO

**Sergeant Brian Helpap a Soldier with 3rd Plt., Co. D, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf. Regt., 4IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., trains Iraqi Soldiers on map reading.**

### Soldier skills remain No. 1 priority

By. Capt. Paul Godson  
4IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, are fulfilling a vital role of assisting, advising and mentoring their Iraqi Army counterparts.

Recently, Sgt. Brian Helpap of Saginaw, Mich., and Spc. Mario Luna of Wichita, Kan., instructed an Iraqi reconnaissance and surveillance platoon from the 4th Iraqi Army Division on land navigation and communication procedures.

On the first day of training, Iraqi Soldiers, known as Jundi, learned how to read a map. After a few days of training, Soldiers were successfully negotiating a four-point land navigation course.

In addition to using a map, compass, and protractor, Soldiers also became proficient using GPS systems to navigate.

**See TRAINING, Page 3**

# Improved security helps Iraqis celebrate Armed Forces Day



Photo by Spc. Darwin L. Seehusen, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**Brigadier General Thomas Vandal, TF Marne deputy commanding general (support), addresses a group of Iraqi military and government leaders at the Al-Tayaran Social Club during Iraqi Armed Forces Day, Jan. 6.**

**By Spc. Cassandra Monroe  
135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.**

**and Capt. Mark Miller  
CP North PAO**

Throughout Iraq, on Jan. 6, the 89th anniversary of Iraqi Armed Forces Day was celebrated. This is a significant event that has been celebrated since 1921, which is also known as Iraqi Army Day.

"This is the date the Army started," said Maj. Gen. Salah-al Din Mustafa Kamal, commander of the 4th Iraqi Army Division, which consists of approximately 14,350 Soldiers.

This is the first time that the Iraqis can celebrate their anniversary without a U.S. presence, which is an indicator that they are self-reliant now

and will be in the future, said Col. Jim Ekvall, the general's senior U.S. advisor for the 4th IA Div.

Colonel Ekvall works with the general every day to discuss various doctrinal processes and tactical and technical procedures to help achieve the objective in the Salah ad-Din province.

Like many others across Iraq, Maj. Gen. Salah started his day with a ceremony recognizing the significance of this special day.

The general spoke to an audience in his division headquarters about the history of the Iraqi Army and reiterated the Army's purpose, which is to support the institution of the government.

"We've never had an official Iraqi holiday, or Independence Day like the United States celebrates," said Maj.

Gen. Salah. "For us, Iraqi Army Day is a day where we all come together. It's our Independence Day.

The intent is to protect the institution, not interfere. The democratic Army is there to serve the government of the people," he added. "We have a democratic and professional Army."

According to Col. Ekvall, "The 4th Iraqi Division is stronger and better than they were a year ago and with each passing day, they continue to grow technically and tactically. I expect to continue to work side by side as the U.S. Army withdraws and the Iraqi army takes responsibility for the security of their nation."

In Mosul, Brig. Gen. Thomas Vandal, the Task Force Marne deputy commanding general (support), addressed Iraqi government and military leaders at a celebration where he spoke about the future of Iraq. With much optimism he said the U.S. and Iraqi forces both share the goals of: a safe and secure Iraq that allows for sovereignty, diplomatic strength and the Iraqi economic prosperity.

In attendance at the ceremony was Maj. Gen. Hassan, commander of Ninewa Operations Command, and Provincial Governor Faisal were in attendance with Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police commanders as they celebrated their Armed Services Day at the Al Tayaran Social Center.

Iraqi military and government leaders also praised the efforts of the Iraqi Armed Services encouraging pride and commitment to their ongoing mission.

After speeches and words of encouragement for the Iraqi military, everyone in attendance enjoyed a meal together to complete the celebration.

## Be SMART!

As an integral team effort, Sergeant Major of the Army has organized Operation SMART (Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team.)

It's a program designed for Soldiers to assist the Recruiting Command. Anyone who refers an applicant, which results in an enlistment into the regular Army or Army Reserve will receive a certificate and coin from the Sergeant Major of the Army.

Go to: [www.2k.army.mil/smart.htm](http://www.2k.army.mil/smart.htm) to register with smart or update your personal information.





# Letter to the editor:

## Red Team chief says thank you, good bye

Thank you for the great Red Team Article. I Wanted to also thank you and your team for your energetic efforts. The newsletter is a fun, informative read.

I think your Marne Newsletter 'The North Star' is on track to hit the same circulation numbers as the Stars and Stripes by 2012! I also wanted to formally Thank The division staff and others in the USD - North and do so outside of an e-mail note.

Thank you all for your insights and pro-activity, I wanted to add a few more insights for everyone who works in United States Division - North:

1. Contingency Operating Base Speicher is an international base. International soccer games occur on this base weekly. People from Turkey, Iraq, India, Uganda, Bosnia, America and other countries play on the COB. I watched the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division Command Sergeant Major play with boots on last week

- He is a competitor!

2. Picture this: In less than one year Iraqi construction and transportation companies will need to derive 50 percent of their revenue from Iraqis (not American dollars). In less than two years, 100 percent of their revenue will need to be earned from international/national sources other than U.S. military. Our presence here is assisting them in their efforts.

3. We are living in a foreign country, most of us in little American neighborhoods. Imagine this little American neighborhood was your permanent home and ask yourself a few questions: What initiatives have the government created to help my little neighborhood? Will American forces leave my little neighborhood? Where will I find a job to feed my family? Does my Government work? Who do I go to be heard? This will give you a sense of what Iraqi's feel daily.

I look forward to watching the Marne in the news over the next year and visiting this country in the future without body armor.

*Best to everyone - Red Baron 6, Col. Malcolm Burr, Red Team leader for TF Marne.*



Colonel Malcolm Burr, Spc. Michael Adams and Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs

## Continued from TRAINING, Page 1

"It's a great opportunity to share our knowledge with our Iraqi counterparts," said Sgt. Helpap.

The training didn't end with land navigation, Spc. Luna instructed Soldiers in the basics of communications, everything from the use of tactical radios, and proper radio procedures to non-verbal skills such as hand and arm signals.

The training culminated with Sol-

diers creating and manning an observation post while communicating with only hand and arm signals.

The Soldier students then established radio communications with their higher headquarters while observing and reporting on the activities of 3rd Plt. Soldiers who were roleplaying as the enemy.

After land navigation and communications training, the Iraqi reconnais-

sance and surveillance platoon will use their newly acquired skills as they secure the Salah ad-Din province.

Additional Iraqi Army units are scheduled to come through the course offered by U.S. advisors, and 3rd Plt. Soldiers are ready to continue.

"It's pretty cool training a Soldier from another country," said Spc. Luna, "It's definitely a different experience."

## Army All-American Bowl kicks off Saturday

### Special to the North Star

The 10th annual playing of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl is set to kick-off on Saturday, at 1:00 p.m, EST.

This year's game marks the 10th anniversary of the game. It will be played in San Antonio's Alamodome and broadcast live on NBC.

Throughout the past decade, the game has featured the nation's most

elite football players and honored more than 300 of the most committed Soldier Heroes.

It has been a launching pad for college and NFL stars such as Adrian Peterson, Reggie Bush, Vince Young, Tim Tebow and Terrelle Pryor, as well as a time to honor Soldiers and noncommissioned Officers of the Year.

Currently, the game has more than 90 alumni currently in the NFL.



Army All-American Bowl photo by Benjamin Faske

## Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Specialist Daniel Stuck, of Romulus, N.Y., is with 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He serves as the Command Post of the Future operator and radio telephone operator, monitoring more than six patrols daily and significant actions within the brigade. He diligently keeps all patrol leaders and the battalion tactical operations center informed. He is instrumental in the relaying of pertinent information to all maneuver elements across the task force, including seven different forward operating bases and the provincial reconstruction team compound. Specialist Stuck's ability to flawlessly receive and distribute information sets the standard for the rest of the battalion's RTOs and makes him a most deserving Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Casey Varenas, of San Diego, Calif., is a contractor with Task Force Marne. He is the consummate professional, with relentless drive and a contagious work ethic. He serves as the Kellogg, Brown and Root Base Life Support project manager for the TF Marne area of operations. Varenas retired from the Marine Corps and has served with KBR for 10 years, supporting the U.S. Army, with consecutive tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom. His service represents the expectations of the American warfighter. For him, Soldiers' quality of life is his top priority and he ensures his team is consistently responsive to their basic life support needs. Varenas is a force multiplier for commanders throughout United States Division - North. His influence is far-reaching and his impact is immeasurable. Casey Varenas is the natural choice for today's Task Force Marne Service Provider of the Week.

## On this day, Jan. 8, in history ...

**1877** - Crazy Horse, who defeated General Custer at the battle of Little Big Horn, six months earlier, was defeated by a U.S. Cavalry campaign commanded by Brig. Gen. Nelson Miles.

**1935** - Singer/actor Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Miss.

**1790** - George Washington delivers the first state of the union to the assembled congress in New York City, the day after being elected America's first president.

**1815** - General Andrew Jackson leads his troops in victory over the British in the battle of New Orleans.

**1973** - American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho meet in Paris to negotiate an end to the Vietnam War. The two sides reached a cease fire five days later.

**1941** - William Randolph Hearst orders his newspaper chain, which had almost 30 newspapers all over America, to stop advertising for the film "Citizen Kane," which is regarded by many film critics as the best and most influential film of all-time.

## Sudoku

Answers will be printed in Monday's edition of the North Star

		9					8	3
	5		6		8	1		7
6			1			5	2	
7				1	3	2		6
4	3						7	1
2		1	8	7				4
	1	3			4			2
8		4	7		1		3	
9	2					4		

## REGIONAL HEADLINES

### Gift card scheme leads to six arrests

[www.kitsapsun.com](http://www.kitsapsun.com)

KITSAP, Wash. — Kitsap County Sheriff detectives say they've dismantled a theft scheme in which stolen building materials were traded in for between \$10,000 and \$15,000 in gift cards from Kitsap home improvement stores.

Six — four men and two women — have been arrested, according to Detective Chad Birkenfeld. All are from Bremerton or Central Kitsap. Jason M. Duty, 29, has been charged by county prosecutors with second-degree possession of stolen property, and he remains in the Kitsap County jail on \$200,000 bail for that charge and an unrelated charge of methamphetamine possession.

Detectives say that Duty hid metals and other items between large pieces of wood he had purchased at Home Depot and Lowe's stores in the county.

Detectives say he or the others would later return the stolen metals for gift cards.

The gift cards were eventually traded or sold — sometimes for 50 cents on the dollar.

Loss prevention officers became suspicious of the man who was frequently returning metal merchandise without receipts during 2009.

Fast forward to early December, when county sheriff's deputies served a search warrant on a Central

Valley Road home for suspected methamphetamine possession.

The residence, found to be Duty's, had stacks of plywood on the front porch that raised detectives' suspicions.

Birkenfeld then asked an area Home Depot loss prevention officer about Duty. He found out the 29-year-old had been "suspended" in the loss prevention database because of the number of returns he had made. That meant a manager would be summoned if he tried to make another return.

After reviewing store video and other evidence, the detectives concluded that Duty would load up a cart with doors and sheets of plywood. He would put various metal supplies, such as angle brackets, on top of the wood, and then lay more wood on top of that to conceal the metals, Birkenfeld said.

On Dec. 10, detectives served another search warrant at the Central Valley Road home, this time for evidence of possession or trafficking of stolen property. There, they found 15 sheets of plywood, 60 to 80 pieces of angle metal with Home Depot stickers on it, and more than 100 receipts from Home Depot and Lowe's, detectives said.

After mining surveillance video and receipts for the gift cards, detectives found Duty had help. That evidence led to the arrest of an additional five people who helped Duty make returns for gift cards. They also will face

charges.

Duty's next date in Kitsap County Superior Court is Jan. 27.

### Support ground ATHP and turn in all amnesty for drawdown retrograde

The ground ammo transfer and holding point, located behind the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Building on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, will be conducting an Amnesty day every 1st day of the month, Jan. 1st- April 1st.

This will give Speicher units the chance to clean up their AO of all unneeded ammunition. No appointments necessary walk-ins will be seen.

ATHP hours for the Amnesty day will be 7 a.m- 3 p.m.

The ATHP Personnel are all Professional Ammunition Specialist and fully support and uphold the Amnesty program and policy. No questions asked.

They just want your Junk ammo.

Keep safety first if you have an amnesty box with something that looks unsafe. Inform the personnel at the ATHP and arrangements will be made for pick up.

### THE North Star

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2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,  
3rd Infantry Division

3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team,  
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