

The North Star

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TF Marne 'breaks' for Super Bowl

By Sgt. Chad Nelson
135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Throughout Task Force Marne servicemember and civilians gathered at a central location or woke from a restful sleep and turned on their TVs at 2 a.m. to watch the Super Bowl with millions of other Americans.

On Contingency Operating Base Speicher, the night began at 11:30 p.m. at the main dining facility where Soldiers were greeted by upbeat tunes from the 3rd Infantry Band. Inside



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Houston Burke, with HHOC, DSTB, 3rd Inf. Div., winds up to throw a football during a punt, pass and accuracy throw competition on COB Speicher, Feb. 6.

bustled with Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and civilians talking and laughing over traditional Super Bowl foods such as hot wings and pizza.

"We're here with our best buddies, and we're going to watch the Super Bowl together," said Lt. Col. Donna Martin, the Task Force Marne Inspector General, 3rd Infantry Division.

The Soldiers participated in an accuracy throw contest in support of their favorite team.

The most footballs thrown through a small target in 30 seconds yielded the opportunity to defeat the opposing team on a dry-erase board.

A Madden Football tournament on Playstation 3 began earlier in the day lasted through the night. Twenty-three Soldiers battled on the virtual gridiron.

Awards included bragging rights, prizes and prime Super Bowl seating on a leather couch 5 feet in front of a big screen television.

Prior to the game Houston Texans Cheerleaders performed their sideline routines, signed autographs and posed for pictures.

The game capped off a week of pre-game activities and provided a much-needed break from the rigors of a desert deployment.

Kicking off the morale-boosting



Photos by Sgt. Chad Nelson, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

TF Marne Soldiers gather at the main dining facility on COB Speicher to watch the Super Bowl, Feb. 8. The night also included a visit from the Houston Texans Cheerleaders.

week was a punt, pass and accuracy throw contest in which nearly 60 servicemembers participated. In place of shoulder pads and football helmets, servicemembers donned their individual body armor and advanced combat helmet to provide an authentic football experience.

Many participants enjoyed the contest, feeling it brought a little bit of home to Iraq.

"It's like I'm in my backyard playing catch with my kids," said Sgt. Maj. Lucian Sweetenberg, of Roanoke, Va., the Task Force Marne G4 sergeant major, 3rd Inf. Div., and overall winner of the event.

While on a desert deployment, it can be difficult for servicemembers to

See Super Bowl, Page 2 —

Spartans put Iraqi forces through drill

By Pfc. Crystal O'Neal,
2BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

A man drives through an Iraqi checkpoint dressed as the most respected figure in Iraqi tribal communities: a sheik. He dons the long dress-like apparel, known as the abaiyah, and the traditional head-dress, the kifeayah, draped over his head and hanging past his shoulders.

He pulls up, stops and is questioned by Iraqi Federal Police. He demands to keep going through the checkpoint, because, after all he is a shiek.

A policeman tells the sheik, "Shai-kh, Aukhraj Men Al-Sayrah!," or in English, "Sir, step out of the car!" The shiek steps out of the car, and the IFPs then search him and his vehicle professionally and accurately, finding guns, knives and explosives.

Staff Sergeant Jose De La Sierra, a noncommissioned officer assigned to the 114th Military Police Company, playfully pulls the head dress off of the "sheik" and tells him to replace it with his patrol cap. Specialist Sean Cortes puts it on and shakes hands with the IFPs. The IFPs smile, proud of themselves for exhibiting expertise and professionalism during the traffic control training given to them by the 114th MP Co.

The IFPs, along with the Iraqi Quick Reaction Force, have been working with the 114th MP Co. weekly on Forward Operating Base Marez in northern Iraq to perfect their policemen skills and sharpen their traffic control skills during this training exercise, Feb. 2.

Staff Sergeant De La Sierra, Task

Force Marne noncommissioned officer in charge of the training, said the policemen have not only been enjoying themselves during the training, but they have also been doing an excellent job, soaking up all information taught to them.

"Our sole purpose is to teach them the proper procedures for searching vehicles and personnel during traffic control. We role play, giving them hands-on training so when they are out there patrolling, this will all be second nature to them," said Staff Sgt. De La Sierra.

He added this training will defi-

nately give the IFPs a solid foundation to stand on once U.S. Soldiers have completely pulled out of the policemen's area of operations.

"We are empowering the IFPs, teaching them to capture criminals and properly document all evidence found so that these suspects will be held and tried for their crimes instead of being released back into population," he said.

They are instructed to stop all vehicles, ask for identification, and if they have any suspicions, search the vehicle and its passengers thoroughly.

"If any incriminating evidence is found, we taught them to compile it and to take pictures of the evidence, the criminals and the license plate of the vehicle. Following all these procedures, the bad guys are sure to be convicted leaving the streets of Mosul a much safer place," said Staff Sgt. De La Sierra.

Miqdad Shukur Muhmmud, Qualified Reaction Force member, said that the training has definitely proven beneficial, and he and his fellow co-workers are growing more and more confident with each training session.

"The training has helped a lot," he said. "Once all the Soldiers leave, we will be able to protect our people, making sure our country is safe and the people are well."



Photo by Pfc. Crystal O'Neal, 2BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO
An Iraqi Federal Policeman searches an engine of a vehicle during mock traffic-control training exercises conducted by TF Marne MPs on FOB Marez in northern Iraq, Feb. 2.

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maintain morale.

To ensure morale remains high, the coordinators of the week's events strived to make things as fun as possible.

"We wanted to boost morale, team cohesion and build esprit-de-corps in the fun spirit of the Super Bowl," said Sgt. 1st Class Andrea Johnson, noncommissioned officer in charge of operational law with 3rd Inf. Div., and

a coordinator for the week's events.

With such large participation in the various events throughout the week, Sgt. 1st Class Johnson and her fellow Judge Advocate General comrades went above and beyond their goal — they provided a necessary break from the routine of a deployment.

Though servicemembers were excited to watch the Super Bowl, it wasn't about which team won or lost;

it was about recreating the normalcy of home.

Watching the great American game of football with friends while eating hot wings had the power to momentarily transport the troops back home, if only for a few hours.

"It puts you in a home environment," Sgt. Maj. Sweetenberg said. "You feel like you're home in your living room."



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Marshall, 25CAB, 25th Inf. Div. PAO

Colonel Mike Lundy (center), commander, 25th CAB, 25th Inf. Div., and Command Sgt. Maj. Jesus Ruiz (far right), lead a four-mile "Sounds of Freedom" formation run as part of the OIF Great Aloha Run at COB Speicher, Feb. 1.

Winners of the Great Aloha

Run (M): SSG Roderick Reeves (3rd ID DSTB)

(F): SFC Silkia Ramos (724th Trans)

Walk: Pfc. Lucas Terpstra (209th ASB, 25CAB, 25th Inf. Div.)

Category Winners by Age Group

18-25: SPC Joe Bass

18-25: 1LT Anne Amigle

26-31: SPC Douglas Long

26-31: CPT Erin Nash

32-40: SPC Alejandro Robles

32-40: 1LT Amy Alheim

40 & Up: SFC Robert Zamudio

40 & Up: LTC Susan Fondy

Hawaiian spirit surfaces during Great Aloha Run

By Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Marshall
25CAB, 25th Inf. Div PAO

The Aloha spirit was on display as the Soldiers of Task Force Wings, joined by other members of TF Marne, participated in the Operation Iraqi Freedom Great Aloha Run in two United States Division-North locations, Feb. 1.

Nearly 1,100 people, led by members of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, simulated the 25-year-old race on Contingency Operating Base Speicher and Forward Operating Base Warrior.

The Hawaii-based units showed their Aloha spirit conducting a four-mile formation run, known as the "Sounds of Freedom."

Individual runners had the option to stay the course a little longer and complete 8.15 miles.

The extremely competitive individual races were divided into age groups for males and females, ranging from 18 to 26 through 40 and over.

Staff Sergeant Roderick Reeves, 3rd Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, won the individual race at COB Speicher with a time of 47:26.

This was his first time running the race after hearing about it through

the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program.

"I felt great [since I] rested the day before," Staff Sgt. Reeves said. "The weather was perfect, and my leadership allowed me time to prepare. I've never been to Hawaii, but I look forward to visiting when I do the Ironman for my 40th birthday."

Sergeant First Class Silkia Ramos, 724th Transportation Company, 264th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, won the overall female category with a time of 60:10.

"This is the first time I've ever [done] the Great Aloha Run," Sgt. 1st Class Ramos said. "I felt great until about mile six. From that point on, it was a bit painful, but I finished. I've been battling a sore right hamstring [from an injury in a previous deployment.]"

The troopers of 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, TF Lightning Horse, completed the 8.15-mile run in formation, duplicating the run from the Aloha Towers to Aloha Stadium on the island of Oahu.

More than 100 Soldiers participated in their Sounds of Freedom run, completing the run in 60:17.

The individual race in Kirkuk included 97 additional runners with Staff Sgt. Lawrence Smith from Company B, 1st Special Troops Battalion,

1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, winning the overall male category with a time of 52:01.

Sergeant Evangeline Begay, with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2-6th Cav. Regt., TF Wings, won the overall female category in 1:28:17.

Comfortable temperatures and a mild wind set perfect conditions for a competitive run. Most of the Soldiers and race participants shared a common thread – an enthusiastic love for athletics.

"Enjoy the race and have fun with it," Sgt. 1st Class Ramos said. Having to be away from family and friends during deployment, it is always nice knowing that events like this are put together to motivate Soldiers and boost morale. Especially when the event represents the state in which they are from.

Staff Sergeant Reeves also gave some advice to the participants in Hawaii preparing for the Feb. 15 race.

"Keep running, biking and swimming," advised Staff Sgt. Reeves. "Stay involved in an active lifestyle. It's not that hard [especially] in Hawaii, and events like the GAR are a wonderful way to unite with other people who will encourage, support and assist you in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Run to live, live to run."

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Corporal Siobhan Chase, of Ann Arbor, Mich., serves as a medic in the 1st Engineer Battalion Aid Station. Corporal Chase distinguished herself by rendering first aid to an unconscious and convulsing noncommissioned officer in the North Dining Facility at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Jan. 14. Her actions to restrain the NCO and to clear his airway in order to restore normal breathing allowed him to stabilize until an ambulance could arrive to transport him to the field hospital. The afflicted NCO was subsequently returned to duty, thanks in no small part to Cpl. Chase's quick actions. Corporal Chase's calm composure and effective medical treatment are a credit to medics everywhere and to the 1st Eng. Bn. Her ability to provide critical care under pressure makes her an obvious choice for today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Private First Class Jonathan Krug, of Manhattan, Kan., is an intelligence analyst with Company C, Task Force Odin, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. He distinguished himself while conducting duties as a crew member on an aerial reconnaissance aircraft performing counter improvised explosive device operations. With more than 500 mission hours, his experience and proficiency has disrupted countless terrorist networks and undoubtedly saved Soldiers' lives. His recent analysis of gathered intelligence produced key and essential information. The information enabled a ground tactical commander to action targets that resulted in the detainment of one high value individual, two persons of interest, and the discovery of numerous weapon caches. Private First Class Krug is always motivated and often works extra hours so ground forces receive actionable intelligence. Additionally, Pfc. Krug voluntarily extended his combat tour to ensure a seamless transition with his replacement. Private First Class Krug's dedication and commitment to excellence prove that one Soldier - regardless of rank - can make a difference. He encompasses the Warrior Ethos and clearly deserves to be today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

Notable African-Americans

www.factmonster.com

Homer Plessy was one of the first civil rights leaders in America. In 1890, he purposely violated a Louisiana state law segregating trains by sitting in an all-white car. Six years later, *Plessy v. Ferguson* went before the Supreme Court, the court ruled 'Separate but Equal' was constitutional. While the ruling was a setback, it inspired many in America to take a stand against Jim Crow Laws.

Elijah McCoy invented the 'lubricating cup' for steam engines. Prior to this invention, locomotives had to make frequent stops due to overheating. The lubricating cup allowed locomotives to constantly move without stopping. McCoy was born to slaves in Kentucky and escaped to Canada through the underground railroad. He was educated in Scotland and moved to America after finishing his studies.

Barbara Jordan was the First African-American elected to the Texas state senate and the first African-American to be elected to congress from the south since reconstruction. She achieved national recognition when she served on the House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate trials in the 1970s. She became one of the first African-American elected officials to rise to national prominence.

Patricia Bath dedicated her life to the prevention and treatment of blindness. After getting a Medical Doctorate Degree from Howard University, she became a co-founder of the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness. She is best known for her invention of the Laserphaco, a device used for cataract treatment.

William Levi Dawson attended the Tuskegee Institute at the age of 13. He went on to attend the Horner

Institute of Fine Arts in Kansas City and received a Master's Degree at the American Conservatory of Music in 1931. He founded the School of Music at Tuskegee and became the first conductor of the Tuskegee Choir. He led the choir in performance at the grand opening of the Radio City Music Hall as well as for Presidents Hoover and Roosevelt.

Jack Johnson was born to two slaves in 1878. He became a top-quality boxer and rose to defeat Tommy Burns in 1908 to become the first African-American heavyweight champion. His personal life was controversial primarily because of his marriage to a white woman. Despite his personal life, he remained a top-flight boxer, beating opponent after opponent. He was convicted of contrived violations of a federal law. He fled to Europe and continued to win until his defeat against Jess Willard in Cuba in 1915.

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Former Burlington mayor injured by bulldozer

United Press International

MOUNT VERNON, Wash. - A bulldozer accident has critically injured the 68-year-old former mayor of Burlington. Mount Vernon police said Roger "Gus" Allen Tjeerdsma was operating a bulldozer on the morning of Feb. 4, when it ran over him.

He was flown to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle where a nursing supervisor said he was in critical condition that night.

Mount Vernon Fire Department spokeswoman Erica Work says the man had stopped the machine and stood on the tread to speak to a co-worker. When he tried to get back into the cab, he bumped a lever, which made the bulldozer go backward.

The tread carried Tjeerdsma with it, pulling him under the bulldozer. Work says he suffered severe injuries to his legs and pelvis, as well as an injury to his arm.

An investigation of the apparent accident has been turned over to the state Department of Labor & Industries.

Manhole thefts costing Georgia \$500,000

Atlanta Journal Constitution

ATLANTA - The Georgia Department of Transportation said at least 645 grates and 20 manhole covers have been stolen from Atlanta-area streets since last spring.

GDOT spokesman Mark McKinnon said the thefts are costing the state more than \$500,000 in tax payer funds, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Feb. 4.

"This is just more money going out the door that shouldn't be because of theft," McKinnon said. "Other things may certainly suffer if we can't get these stopped."

McKinnon said the thieves would likely get only \$8 or \$9 for recycling a single manhole or grate, but investigators have been unable to find any of them at area scrap yards and recycling centers.

"People are risking jail time for \$9 or \$10 and an awful lot of work," he said.

Couple battles Dallas' order to get rid of 17 rescued pets

Dallas Morning News

DALLAS - Mark and Lynn Gideon say their pets are their children. And with seven dogs and 10 cats, it's quite a large family they have.

Now the city of Dallas has ordered the Gideons to ditch their family by Feb. 14. Needless to say, they're heartbroken.

"It's 'just not fair,'" Lynn said this week. And based on what I see, I have to agree.

Granted, neither you nor I might want that many pets. But the Gideons have done it right.

Their animals are all rescues. Most have been with them for years and are

now elderly. They get wonderful care. When the city passed an ordinance in 2008 limiting the number of animals in a home, the Gideons got all the proper approvals to keep their family together under a grandfather clause in the code.

But one neighbor has been a frequent complainer. Animal-control officers made repeated trips to the Gideon's Far East Dallas home in response.

No citations were ever issued — until one day last August.

"I don't know if we were having a bad day. I don't know if the officer was having a bad day," Lynn said. But on Aug. 7, the officer wrote two tickets. One was for having animal waste in the back yard and around litter boxes inside. The other was for odor from the animal waste.

Answers to Friday's Sudoku

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

THE North Star

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