

# The North Star

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



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## Partners Stand Guard



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

A Soldier of Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division of Fort Stewart, Ga., wears his Combined Security Forces 'Golden Lion' insignia during a patrol with his fellow Iraqi CSF soldiers, March 12.

## Spartan Soldier awarded Bronze Star

**Spc. Dustin Gautney**  
2BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

Staff Sergeant Kelly Young, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, heroically entered an area with

possible improvised explosive devices to kill or capture extremists who were firing on his squad. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor device during a ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Diamondback Theater, March 12.

Staff Sergeant Young distinguished himself while guarding a major roadway against explosive device "emplacers," about 14 miles south of Mosul, 10:34 p.m., Jan. 7.

Four men carrying rifles and a heavy

**See Bronze Star, Page 2—**

# Soldiers, Families asked to donate for Chile relief

## Army News Service

The Army chief of chaplains has asked Soldiers and their Families to again consider providing assistance to earthquake victims -- this time for those in Chile.

A similar designated offering was collected from across the Army in January to provide relief for victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Then, Soldiers and their Families donated \$574,285 for relief in that country, with money being sent to the Red Cross to provide assistance.

The Army's chief of chaplains this week requested installation and medical center chaplains to hold a designated offering no later than the weekend

of April 11 for victims of the Chile earthquake two weeks ago. Chaplains will let those in attendance at services know when funds collected will be designated for Chile relief.

According to the Office of the Chief of Chaplains, the designated offerings will be sent to the relief agency of the garrison's choice to help the Chile earthquake victims.

The nation of Chile -- on the western shore of South America -- was rocked by a magnitude 8.8 earthquake, Feb. 27. It is estimated nearly 800 Chileans died as a result of the quake -- the nation's largest in 40 years. In 1960, the country experienced a magnitude 9.5 earthquake -- the largest quake in world recorded history.

The Haiti earthquake, though smaller on the Richter scale than Chile's, killed more than 150,000 in the Port-au-Prince area alone.

Survivors of that disaster are receiving more than half a million dollars from Army chapel donations to the Red Cross.

"The generous contribution of the men and women of the United States Army and their Families is critical to the ability of the American Red Cross to provide help and hope for the people of Haiti during their time of need," said Neal Litvack, chief development officer of the American Red Cross. "We are continuing to provide supplies and disaster management staff to Haiti in the aftermath of this earthquake."

## Continued from Bronze Star, Page 1—

object were discovered. After identifying the individuals, two M2 Bradley Fighting vehicles went to investigate the suspicious individuals' activities.

The four men walked behind a hill; out of the Soldiers' line-of-sight. As the Bradley's crested the hill, the four men started shooting heavy, small-arms and throwing grenades at the Bradley team.

After the initial contact, the insurgents entrenched themselves on the backside of the hill, which provided the four men cover and concealment from the Bradleys' weapons.

One Bradley returned fire, but its crew-served 7.62mm M240B machine gun jammed; it had to pull-out of the engagement area. After hearing, that senior scout, Staff Sgt. Young, decided to retain the initiative and have the Bradley section "hand-off" the targets to him.

Staff Sergeant Young led two Humvees to the objective, so they could neutralize the four insurgents.

His platoon leader was

also enroute to the objective, while coordinating Army air and ground assets.

Once near the objective, Staff Sgt. Young exited his vehicle and assembled a five-man squad, and they started to clear the ditch that the armed enemies occupied.

Placing himself at risk by personally leading the patrol, he walked into a hostile area with unknown tactical conditions, against an enemy force that possibly possessed an IED.

Staff Sergeant Young deliberately crossed to the far side of the ditch and used his own weapon-light to draw the enemies fire to his direction and not against his squad.

While clearing the first section of the ditch Staff Sgt. Young identified two dead insurgents and one he believed was severely wounded.

Placing himself at personal risk again, Staff Sgt. Young moved forward alone to try and render aid to the wounded enemy. But according to Staff Sgt. Young once he was less than 10 meters away from the "wound-



Photo by Spc. Dustin Gautney, 2BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO  
**Staff Sergeant Kelly Young, from 3/7th Cav., 2BCT, 3rd ID, receives the Bronze Star Medal from Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, 3rd ID commander, for his heroics, Jan. 7, during a ceremony held at FOB Diamondback Theater, March 12.**

ed" man, who was feigning death, the insurgent reached for a nearby AK-47 and started shooting at Staff Sgt. Young and his dismounted team.

Staff Sergeant Young dove out of the enemy's direct fire path, returned fire and ordered his patrol to seek cover.

He then formulated a plan that allowed the dismounted patrol to clear the remainder of the ditch, killing the last insurgent. Items recovered from the insurgents includes three AK-47 rifles, one rocket propelled grenade, several grenades, one IED, night vision optics, and tactical gear.



# Flight engineer finds trust in aircraft

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

Loyal and trustworthy are words rarely used to describe a relationship between a Soldier and an aircraft.

For Sgt. Alyssa Corcoran, with Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th General Support Aviation Brigade, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, that's exactly how she describes working as a CH-47 Chinook helicopter flight engineer.

"It's truly a very in-depth relationship," said Sgt. Corcoran. "It's peaceful (to sit in the back of the bird). It's getting away from here and just flying, and everything is just quiet. It's relieving."

The Chinook is such a large and complex aircraft, said Sgt. Corcoran. If one can work on a Chinook, one can basically work on any of the other helicopters because of the knowledge of both systems.

"A flight engineer can control the aircraft and control the passengers that they carry," said Sgt. Corcoran, who is stationed at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii. "You should be able to troubleshoot the aircraft. The flight engineer is responsible for making the right call on what you should do if you have engine failure, a fire in flight (or) other multiple problems."

As a flight engineer, Sgt. Corcoran works in conjunction with the pilots in com-

mand. She makes decisions for unexpected situations, such as unaccounted for cargo and bad weather conditions. The flight engineer helps plan the mission out and ensuring it gets done.

Sergeant Corcoran is a self-proclaimed problem-solver and troubleshooter, which makes a great match for what it takes to be a flight engineer. However, this is not her first job in the Army.

"I first joined as a radio

operator and was transferred to heavy radio systems," she said. "I worked on a very old system that is not in the Army arsenal anymore, so my military occupational specialty became obsolete. I was almost forced to re-class as a computer systems analyst, and I didn't want to do that. So, I fought for a different MOS, and this one was available, so I took this job."

The hard fight paid off for Sgt. Corcoran, who feels that she has more of a hands-on grasp with mis-

sions as a flight engineer.

"You get to see a lot more of the mission getting accomplished whether you're pulling personnel out of Iraq, taking cargo and personnel from base to base, or assisting with mass-casualty evacuations – you're where the mission actually gets accomplished," she said.

Not only does she enjoy her job, but her crew members notice the hard work she puts into the missions.

"Sergeant Corcoran is a highly motivated and proficient worker," said Spc. Joseph Keele, a Chinook crew mechanic with Co. B, 3/25th GSAB and Sgt. Corcoran's crewmate. "She diligently studies the huge amount of crew manuals we have to be familiar with."

"To be a good crew chief, you need to be humble, be able to take criticism, and you need to be able to study," Sgt. Corcoran said. "Having a good memory helps, because there's a lot of stuff to remember. You have to be consistent in what you do, put 100 percent forward every day, and you need to be intrinsically motivated."

According to Sgt. Corcoran, the time she has spent as a flight engineer has been worthwhile.

"My favorite part of my job is owning the aircraft," Sgt. Corcoran said. "I've had my own aircraft for four years now, and I don't think that I could find anything as loyal or as trustworthy."



Photo by Spc. Cassandra Monroe, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.  
*Sergeant Alyssa Corcoran, a flight engineer with Co. B, 3/25th GSAB, 25th CAB, 25th ID, relays a message through an internal communication system while her aircraft stops to refuel during a cargo and personnel transportation mission in Iraq, March 7.*



## TASK FORCE MARNE

### U.S. DIVISION - NORTH, IRAQ

<http://www.stewart.army.mil/tfm/homepage/default.asp>



## Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Specialist Chase Waterman, of Grove City, Ohio, is an Intelligence Analyst with 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He has produced more than 100 products that were used at the battalion, brigade, and division levels. He conducted intelligence exploitation on more than 20 high value-individuals that lead to the capture of the number one and four high value-individuals in the battalion's area of operations. He also assisted with the exploitation of targeted personnel to counter indirect fire attacks against Joint Base Balad. His dedication to excellence and selfless service are great reflections upon his unit and the U.S. Army and make him a most deserving selection as today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Staff Sergeant Ronald Nelson, of Jefferson City, Mo., is with the 130th Engineer Brigade. He serves as a squad leader, truck commander, and a Bradley Fighting Vehicle .50 caliber machine gunner. Staff Sergeant Nelson is the lead gun truck for the brigade command sergeant major's patrols and is responsible for route planning and navigation. Over the last several weeks, as the operational tempo has greatly increased, Staff Sgt. Nelson has risen to the challenge that navigating in downtown Mosul presents. Not only does he preplan all routes that the command sergeant major's team travels, he ensures all gun trucks in the platoon have copies of his own Blue Force Tracker generated overlays. Before missions, Staff Sgt. Nelson ensures his truck is prepared and ready by conducting thorough pre-checks and services. After missions, he takes great care in mentoring his assigned Soldiers and mitigates personnel problems through both professional and personal growth counseling. Staff Sergeant Nelson's motivation and dedication to the mission is what makes him deserving of selection as Today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

## Women in World War II

In addition to factory work and other home-front jobs, some 350,000 women joined the Armed Services, serving at home and abroad. At the urging of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and women's groups, and impressed by the British use of women in service, Gen. George Marshall supported the idea of introducing a women's service branch into the Army.

In May 1942, Congress instituted the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, later upgraded to the Women's Army Corps, which had full military status. Its members, known as WACs, worked in more than 200 non-combatant jobs stateside and in every theater of the war. By 1945, there were more than 100,000 WACs and 6,000 female officers. In the Navy, members of Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) held the same status as naval reservists and provided support stateside. The Coast Guard and Marine Corps soon followed suit, though in smaller numbers.

One of the lesser-known roles women played in the war effort was provided by the Women's Airforce Service Pilots, or WASPs. These women, each of whom had already obtained their pilot's license prior to service, became the first women to fly American military aircraft. They ferried planes from factories to bases, transporting cargo and participating in simulation strafing and target missions, accumulating more than 60 million miles in flight distances and freeing thousands of male U.S. pilots for active duty in World War II. More than 1,000 WASPs served, and 38 of them lost their lives during the war.

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

## BOB ON THE FOB by SGT Albert J. Merrifield

Yes, yes, my precious... Come to my mug... I won't let the others get you... Now, let's go see our friend Mr. Honey Bun...



### TOCroach n. (tôk' rōch)

1. Subspecies of **fobbit** usually found in offices, motor pools, or TOCs. Known for gathering up all necessary resources (especially coffee, food, network connections) before other personnel can use them. Will scatter rapidly at the mention of work. Closely related to **FOB locusts**.



# REGIONAL HEADLINES

## Buckhead mom dives into trash after son's work tossed

Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Science projects require much time, creativity and thought from young students.

They typically don't require a police investigation. Or prompt mothers to go Dumpster diving.

But both happened last week after a Sutton Middle School janitor accidentally tossed a student's science project into the trash.

The school's principal, Audrey Sofiano, told police that the student's mother, Christy Roe, became so upset and disruptive that staffers had to ask her to leave, according to an Atlanta police report.

Roe, 51, a real-estate investor who lives in Buckhead, denies that she was asked to leave, but acknowledges that she was angry and climbed into a Dumpster in search of her son's project.

"I got in the Dumpster in my high heels," Roe said. "I got in and out of the Dumpster like an Olympic gymnast."

The incident happened on Nov. 17 at Sutton Middle, on Powers Ferry Road in northwest Atlanta.

Roe brought the science project, which was about the concept of momentum, to the science teacher's door and left it there on the floor because she didn't want to go in the classroom, she told police, according to the report.

It was in a cardboard box and included a "Newton's cradle," a device made of silver balls that act as pendulums and are attached by string to a frame.

She left and returned 10 minutes later to find the box missing.

School officials discovered that the custodian had picked up the box as he walked past the room, believing it was trash, the report said.

Roe caught up to him at the Dumpster.

"He stated that he was completely surprised when he was confronted by an unknown lady at the Dumpster ordering him to climb into the Dumpster," Atlanta Police Investigator H. Nowell wrote in a police report.

The custodian wouldn't go in, so Roe took the plunge herself. "I did it for my son," Roe said. "I also did it because I knew it wasn't right."

She never found the Newton's cradle, valued at \$25, but she did find a pedestal that she had glued to it — proof to her that someone stole the cradle.

No arrests were made in the case because police could not determine what happened to the missing item.

Roe's son, a seventh-grader, was unfazed by the incident.

"He doesn't even care," Roe said. "All he cares about is video games."

Plus, he got full credit for the science project, said Atlanta Public Schools spokeswoman Kimberly Green.

## St. Patrick's Day Festivities

### Limerock Writing Contest

All military and civilian members of TF Marne are invited to write a lyric about life in United States Division - North.

All limericks must be five lines in length. Lines one, two and five must have seven to 10 syllables that rhyme with each other. Lines three and four must have five to seven syllables that rhyme.

All limericks must conform to Army Values and contain no profanity.

For more information on the contest or to submit a lyric, contact Maj. Mark Kurowski at mark.kurowski@3id.army.mil or call on SVOIP at 670-2146

### Leprechaun Look-a-Like Contest

Submit your photo no later than March 16 to the G6-NETOPS (room C5 in the G6 corridor).

Your photos will be posted in the main foyer March 17 (Leprechaun Election Day). The winner will receive a prize! Still not sure? Call us for all the details at SIPR 670-0154.

### St. Patrick's Day Festival

When: March 17, 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Where: Division - Main Foyer

Enjoy the refreshments and vote on your favorite Leprechaun Look-a-like.

### St. Patrick's Day Pool Tournament

When: March 17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Where: Main Gym

First and second place will receive an AAFES Gift Certificate



## THE North Star

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4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team,  
1st Infantry Division  
2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,  
3rd Infantry Division

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