

The North Star

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



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Dog Face Hero Remembered

Soldiers honor Marne hero at Baghdad ceremony

By Sgt. Johnathon Jobson
TF Marne PAO

More than 75 3rd Infantry Division "Dog Face" Soldiers and several additional U.S. units serving throughout Iraq, gathered in a small lot at Victory Base Complex in Baghdad, to show tribute to fallen-hero Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, April 4.

Soldiers said they came to honor the ultimate sacrifice Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, a 3rd ID Soldier, made protecting his fellow Soldiers seven years ago this day.

For his actions, Sgt. 1st Class Smith was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously in April 4, 2005; the first such recipient for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sergeant First Class Smith was a combat engineer assigned to Company B, 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd ID and his company was attached to 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd ID during the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Seven years ago, Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Campbell

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Photo by Spc. Jared Eastman, 1BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

Captain Steven Jackowski, the commander for HHC, 1BCT, 3rd ID, looks at the Camp Liberty, battle-site where Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith was mortally wounded April 4, 2003, and thus awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

130th holds sexual assault awareness luncheon

By Pvt. Jennifer Lowes
130th Eng. Bde. PAO

The 130th Engineer Brigade Headquarters Company and the 779th Engineer Battalion hosted a luncheon at the Contingency Operating Site Marez dining facility's VIP room April 2, to raise awareness about sexual harassment/assault in the military.

Soldiers ate and listened

to guest speaker Capt. Donovan Horton, U.S. Army behavioral health professional.

Captain Horton, who has five years experience with behavioral health in the Army Reserves, said he does not take this issue lightly.

"This is a serious issue. Sexual assault/harassment destroys any type of bond, we as a military family, have built," said Capt. Horton.

According to Capt. Horton, 80-percent of all sexual assaults in the U.S. military go unreported.

"The emotional effects of a sexual assault can be more damaging than the physical assault. When a victim doesn't report an assault or seek help it impairs the therapeutic process. Trying to move on without getting help never works," he explains.

Soldiers also watched an informational video about the Army's "I. A.M. STRONG" campaign.

The video encouraged Soldiers to intervene, act and motivate others to do the same when sexual assault/harassment occurs.

Through this program, the Army proactively engages Soldiers and the

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was the Co. B first sergeant, and he described that fateful day.

"At first light April 4, we arrived here. By nine a.m., Alpha Company, 2-7, had taken prisoners and needed a place to hold those prisoners," said Command Sgt. Maj. Campbell, currently the command sergeant major of Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd ID.

"Sergeant First Class Smith answered the call and directed that the holding area be placed here," Command Sgt. Maj. Campbell said.

"As it was, this was an ideal spot to guard those prisoners ... and for the enemy to mount an attack. Around ten a.m. they did just that.

"With mortars and rocket propelled grenade fire, two M113s were taken out in seconds. With the enemy controlling fire superiority, the casualties had to be extracted and the attack had to be stopped.

"The only things preventing the enemy—a company's worth of dismounted Republican Guards—advance

were less than ten engineers from Bravo Company. Sergeant First Class Smith secured the site by firing AT-4s and small arms, and throwing hand grenades. Once the casualties were being moved out, he directed a Soldier to operate Bravo One-Three—a disabled M113—and move it into position where I am standing right now.

"Sergeant First Class Smith fired over four hundred rounds of ammunition into the tower behind me—the wall to my left and the gate to my right," Command Sgt. Maj. Campbell said.

"During this time he was completely exposed to enemy fire from all directions. This allowed the casualties to be evacuated, as three engineers flanked the tower to take out the command and control element controlling the attack. In the final minutes of his attack, Sergeant First Class Smith was fatally shot in the head by small arms fire.

"However, his equipment showed damage and hits taken from direct-fire that lasted over forty-five min-



Photo by Spc. Jared Eastman, 1BCT, 3rd ID PAO

Major General Tony Cucolo, TF Marne commander, speaks during Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith's Memorial Ceremony on Camp Liberty, April 4. Smith was mortally wounded April 4, 2003, at the same spot the ceremony took place. His actions helped defeat enemy attacks, resulting in as many as 50 insurgents killed, while allowing the safe withdrawal of numerous wounded U.S. Soldiers.

utes; his devotion to duty and direct leadership are an inspiration to us all," Command Sgt. Maj. Campbell said.

Major General Tony Cucolo, the commander of Task Force Marne and 3rd ID, also spoke about events of April 4, 2003, and of the importance of the memorial ceremony.

"Sergeant First Class Smith was a Dog Face Soldier," Maj. Gen. Cucolo said, "One of a long line of Dog Face Soldiers that stretches back over ninety-two years, that made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. He was one of fifty other Dog Face Soldiers who performed acts so valorous, that the nation saw fit to award them the Medal

of Honor."

"Sergeant First Class Smith's actions tie him to a long history of Marne Soldiers standing their ground in the heat of battle.

"On the Marne River in 1918, a group of Dog Faces said to the retreating allies on their flanks and to the relentless enemy to their front, 'We will stay here,' and they did," said Maj. Gen. Cucolo. "On the fourth of April, 2003, Paul R. Smith spoke those same words to overwhelming odds with a .50-caliber machine gun. From his exposed position behind that weapon, with every accurate burst from the weapon, he shouted, 'you all picked the wrong outfit to attack, we're staying here.'"



Photo by Spc. Jared Eastman, 1BCT, 3rd ID PAO

Soldiers from around Iraq take a moment to pray during a memorial ceremony for Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith was attached to 1BCT, as part of the surge into Iraq in April 2003.

Blackhawks rewarded for OIF accomplishments

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

Blackhawk Soldiers of 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, out of Fort Bliss, Texas, were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in Operation Iraqi Freedom during an award ceremony at Forward Operating Base Warrior, April 2.

Distinguished guests of the event included Col. Larry Swift, Ready First Combat Team commander; Lt. Col. Brian J. McHugh, Blackhawk commander; Command Sgt. Maj. James Daniels, Ready First Combat Team command sergeant major, and Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley Varner, Blackhawk command sergeant major.

During the ceremony, 1st Lt. Matthew Mitchell, a Richmond, Va., native and a platoon leader with Troop A, was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries

he sustained during combat operations, Dec. 28, 2009.

Twelve of his Soldiers in Alpha Troop were also awarded the Combat Action Badge for their actions when they were engaged by the enemy that same day.

For outstanding meritorious achievements, two Blackhawk Soldiers were awarded the Army Commendation Medal for their actions.

Also, 79 Soldiers were awarded the Army Achievement Medal for outstanding military accomplishments.

Following the ceremony, Lt. Col. McHugh spoke to his Blackhawks about how proud he is of them for all of their accomplishments since arriving in November and even gave them a day off to relax and enjoy the FOB Warrior football tournament on Sunday.

"It is very important while you are here to get some rest and enjoy yourselves sometimes," Lt. Col. McHugh said. "So I do not

want to see anyone at work from eleven p.m., Saturday, to six a.m. on Monday; go enjoy the game Blackhawks."

Receiving the Combat Action Badge were 1st Lt. Matthew Mitchell, Sgt. 1st Class Sean Schnick, Cpl. Jason Mireles, Spc. Steven Shaw, Cpl. Joseph Srafani,

Spc. Derek Adcock, Spc. Eder Andrade, Spc. Elias Kayat, Spc. Patrick Belcher, Cpl. Gregory Mayer, Spc. David Lee, Spc. Joshua Bebbino, Spc. Seth Naranjo and Pfc. Juan Rivera.

Specialist Glenn Meyer and Spc. Tyler Furlich received the Army Commendation Medal.



Photo by Staff. Sgt. Christina Turnipseed, 1BCT, 1st AD PAO

Blackhawk Soldiers of 6/1 Cav., 1BCT, 1st AD, out of Fort Bliss, Texas, were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments during Operation Iraqi Freedom by Lt. Col. Brian J. McHugh, Blackhawk commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley Varner, Blackhawk command sergeant major on FOB Warrior, April 2.

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Photo by Pfc. Jennifer Lower, 130th Eng. Bde. PAO

Behavioral health professional, Capt. Donovan Horton speaks to Soldiers about sexual assault/ harassment awareness, at a luncheon hosted by HHC, 779th Eng. Bn., 130th Eng. Bde. at COS Marez, April 2.

American public with communication products and lectures that show what the Army is doing to change the climate from one of not reporting to one that encourages reporting of sexual offenses.

The program uses more proactive measures to educate, train and improve its workforce.

The I. A.M. STRONG program encourages Soldiers to refrain from sexually offensive languages and gestures. The program also offers training tools for leaders, including the video played at the luncheon.

The I. A.M. STRONG campaign coincides with the Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response and Prevention, encourages Soldiers to take a stand against sexual harassment/assault in the military.

"Sexual assault is ignorant to race, social class, gender and rank," said Capt. Jorge Iturralde, the 779th Eng. Bn., unit victim advocate.

A UVA is a Soldier assigned by a battalion-level commander and trained to perform duties in support of victims of sexual assault.

Their job is to explain reporting options and resources available to victims to help the healing process.

The Army continues to aggressively address sexual assault issues, focusing on prevention, caring for victims, and taking appropriate adverse administrative or disciplinary action against Soldiers who commit sexual assault. The Army also constantly monitors and refines their policies and programs as well to ensure Soldiers are provided with the latest knowledge.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Private First Class Robert Logan, of Seneca, S.C., is with 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. He has been a great new asset to the battalion medical platoon. He constantly and consistently pushes himself to new heights. His initiative, motivation and military bearing are at a level seldom seen in today's new Soldiers. When given a task, he sets his sights not on the standard, but always beyond it. He is always willing to work hard and take on new tasks, even those that are well beyond his skill level. He is always learning, asking the right questions and watching procedures to further enhance his skills as a medic. In the short time he has been with the Black Lion Battalion and the Bonesaw Medic Platoon, he has set himself apart as a Soldier from whom we can continue to expect great things. Private First Class Logan's ability to exceed any standard and his drive to grow professionally make him a great choice for today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Sergeant Nicholas McWhirter of Hobart, Ind., is with the 130th Engineer Brigade. He is a team leader who was tasked with the responsibility of supervising the construction of check points and living support areas to support the force while on location in the disputed internal boundaries area. Sergeant McWhirter and his platoon continue to set the standard for all engineer Soldiers to follow, employing their flexibility to efficiently effect the battle field. Sergeant McWhirter uses his civilian experience and knowledge to lead his Soldiers to best complete any and all assigned tasks. His professional manner and tact allows him to easily integrate with other units at work sites, including frequent official visitors. Sergeant McWhirter continues to set the example for all to follow and is a credit to himself and his unit. It is for these qualities that he is selected as today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

Erbil Book fair shows titles around the world

Cultural Tidbit Special to the North Star

The 5th Annual Erbil International Book Fair is currently being held by the Arts, Culture, and Information Foundation.

The exhibition opened April 2, and had participation of more than 350 foundations and publishers from most Arab nations in addition to a number foreign countries including Britain,

Germany, France and India.

Publishers contributed more than two million titles to the event.

The exhibition allowed all publications from any publishing house to participate in the event.

The fair seeks to establish the principles of freedom of opinion and expression in a civilized manner.

The origin of writing and science is in Iraq, and the exhibition management seeks to adhere to this principal

and keep this cultural heritage in a statement released by fair director Haitham Zeyad.

In previous years, religious literature was not allowed to be showcased at the event, but this year, religious literature is among the titles.

One of the more popular wings of the fair is the Husseineyia holy site, which has exclusively religious publications and is one of the more popular wings of the exhibition.

Safety Thought of the Week: Taping grenades

- *There continues to be a significant number of lethal and non-lethal grenades that have the safety pin and lever taped.*
- *Do Not tape the safety lever or safety pin!*
- *Do Not bend, tamper, modify or otherwise alter the safety pin or safety lever.*
- *Grenade safety devices are designed as part of the grenade to keep YOU safe!*
- *If a tapped grenade is discovered in your basic load, do not attempt to remove the tape—Contact QASAS for disposition instructions.*
- *The practice of taping grenades is discontinued, including airborne operations. Users are referred to FM 3-23-30 dated 15 OCT 2009, which prohibits the practice of taping grenades.*



REGIONAL HEADLINES

Firefighters get call to put out own station's blaze

www.wayodd.com

WAIPAHU, Hawaii - Firefighters in Waipahu, Hawaii were called back to their own station to put out a fire caused when they left food cooking while out on another call.

Responding to reports of a traffic crash on May 22, firefighters at the station left the food cooking as they rushed to the scene. On their way back from the crash, they received a call to put out a fire at their own station, Fire Capt. Terry Seelig told the Honolulu Advertiser.

Seelig said leaving food unattended on the stove is one of the leading causes of fire in Oahu, so the firefighters' embarrassment also serves as a cautionary tale to others.

"The firefighters (at the station) are very chagrined about it," Fire Capt. Terry Seelig told the Advertiser.

The fire caused about \$25,000 worth of damage to the station house kitchen, which was already scheduled for renovation. The damage has since been repaired.

Woman arrested for high-heel assault

www.wayodd.com

POOLER, Ga. - Police arrested two women after a former lover burst into a Waffle House on Valentine's Day and beat a man with her high-heel.

Police charged a 29-year-old woman and 32 year-old woman with battery and criminal damage to private property following the incident. According to a police report, officers reporting to the Waffle House along U.S. 80 found unidentified victim who suffered cuts and scrapes on his face that appeared to be made by the "spiked heel from a shoe." The victim told officers that he and his girlfriend were at a booth when a pair of sisters—one of whom is the mother of his children—came in and sparked an argument.

British cowboys go on 2,000 mile cattle trail

United Press International

DALLAS - A group of horse riders, mostly British, say they're mounting up to follow a 2,000-mile cattle trail blazed by Western pioneers from Texas to Wyoming.

They'll begin their trek in Fort Belknap, Texas, west of Dallas, to re-travel the route pioneered by Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving almost 150 years ago, The Dallas Morning News reported April 4.

For six months and almost 2,000 miles, the dozen riders using Western tack will be roughing it and camping out under the open sky.

"If they get a shower, they're going to be lucky," expedition leader James Locke said. "A bucket of cold water ... when nobody's looking, and that's it. "The ride is honoring your heritage

and the memory of the people who made this country what it is today," Locke said.

Locke, who has led expeditions all over the world for almost 30 years, said he wanted to follow the Goodnight-Loving Trail after reading about the trailblazers and watching the "Lonesome Dove" television miniseries.

"The American West is alive and well in England," said Locke, 66.

You are invited

Twista

Where: FOB Q-West
When: April 14, Time TBD

Zac Brown Band

Where: FOB Warrior, Mosul
When: April 16-17, Time TBD

Darryl Worley

Where: COB Speicher
When: April 30, Time TBD

UFC Tour

Where: TBD
When: May 3-6, Time TBD

Lonewolf Comedians

Where: TBD
When: May 11-14, Time TBD

Anti-Kidnapping tip:

When possible, conduct key leader engagements in a secure environment

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

25th Combat Aviation Brigade,
25th Infantry Division
130th Engineer Brigade
135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

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