

The North Star

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



Volume 1, Issue 71

April 19, 2010

TF Marne combats sexual harassment

By Spc. Jessica Zullig
135th Mobile PA Det.

Sexual assault is an issue within all communities, including the Army. As a preventative measure against cases of sexual assault, Task Force Marne held sexual assault awareness training for more than 150 Soldiers on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, April 15.

The training focused on the definition of sexual assault and sexual harassment, statistics of incidents reported, and strategies that all Task Force Marne personnel can put into action to help prevent the occurrence of sexual assault and harassment.

"It's important to give this training because throughout COB Speicher and theater, we are a community," said Sgt. 1st Class Jamal Reid, a division equal opportunity advisor with Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Di-

vision. "The goal for what Soldiers will gain from the training is awareness," Sgt. 1st Class Reid said.

"That they will understand that sexual assault and sexual harassment is real – it's happening."

**"Prevention is everyone's responsibility ...
you cannot turn a blind eye."**

-Sergeant First Class Jamal Reid, TF Marne EO Advisor

Lieutenant Colonel Shatrece Buchanan, the division EO program manager, DSTB, 3rd ID, stressed the impact of sexual assault on Soldiers in theater by saying it's a "showstopper."

To keep as many Soldiers as possible in the fight, it is necessary to recognize and prevent sexual assault in its early stages. Nine times out of 10, assault is preceded by harassment, according to Lt. Col. Buchanan.

Soldiers can prevent harassment and

sexual assault by traveling with a battle buddy, carrying a flashlight, adhering to theater policies, staying aware and reporting incidents when they happen.

Unreported incidents remain a huge problem that EO advisors encounter.

According to the training, most offenders assault multiple times until they are caught. When Soldiers don't report incidents, nothing can be done to prevent it.

"Prevention is everyone's responsibility," Sgt. 1st Class Reid said. "You cannot turn a blind eye."

If you do that, what is the impact of sexual harassment and assault on a unit? It destroys cohesion and esprit de corps."

66th MP Company train force of Iraqi policemen

By Pvt. Zachary Zuber
3SBCT, 2nd Inf Div PAO

A series of shops spanning multiple blocks in Jalula, Iraq, are visited by thousands of patrons each day looking for items ranging from fresh fish to new clothes. In a bustling environment like this one it is easy for situations to arise that would be easily handled with the help of the local police.

Through a new training

program operating out of Forward Operating Base Cobra, Iraq, Soldiers from the 66th Military Police Company are encouraging Iraqi Police from the surrounding area to have a stronger presence throughout these communities. The 66th MPs, attached to the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, are supporting IPs to get out and mingle with the population to create a better relationship. **See POLICE, Page 2**



Photo by Pvt. Zachary Zuber, 3SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. PAO

Members of the IP, with Soldiers from 3rd Plt., 66th MP Co., discuss potential solutions for the issues citizens face in Jalula.

Wounded Soldier returns to Iraq

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

The roaring of a Lockheed C-130 Hercules aircraft grows to a stop. A warrior unfastens his seat belt restraints, removes his assault pack from his lap and slings it onto his back as he exits the plane.

He climbs down the ramp, oblivious to the weight of his helmet and body armor, although it's

been about four years since he's worn one.

He was a Soldier then, and he is a Soldier now.

As he steps off the plane, he is greeted by a full-bird colonel, perhaps the brigade's leader.

He quickly salutes; neither four years, nor the memory of the explosion resulting in his Wounded Warrior status, is enough for him to lose his military

bearing while here.

He was a Soldier then, and he is a Soldier now.

Recently, eight wounded combat veterans came back to Iraq as honorees in Operation Proper Exit V, to be recognized for their sacrifices made in the name of duty and the American mission.

One of the visiting Soldiers, Staff Sgt. (Ret.) Brian Neuman, was injured while deployed to Fallujah, Iraq by an explosion, causing him to have his left arm amputated above the elbow.

The Soldier said the trip back reminded him he was still, and always would be, an American Soldier.

"Being here is truly wonderful. It's just awesome to be here, among other Soldiers and know even though I'm wounded, I'm with those who understand me, respect me and still consider me as one of the family," he said. "I get to be a real staff sergeant again – even if it is for just a week," he added with a wide grin.

According to Staff Sgt. Neuman, being there to

talk to the Soldiers on the ground was extremely important and very necessary.

"This is what being a Soldier is all about. I get to talk to Soldiers and share my experiences with them. God forbid anything like this happens to any of them, but if so, they'll see that it's not impossible to keep living and still have pride," said Staff Sgt. Neuman.

The staff sergeant said being able to link up with an old comrade, Staff Sergeant John Nelson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, while visiting Forward Operating Base Marez in northern Iraq added an even more intense sense of camaraderie to the occasion.

"We haven't seen each other in years. We used to be in the same battalion, so just being able to talk to him and tell stories and joke like the old days was awesome," said Staff Sgt. Neuman.

Staff Sergeant Nelson said when he saw his battle buddy, Staff Sgt. Neuman,

See NEUMAN, Page 3

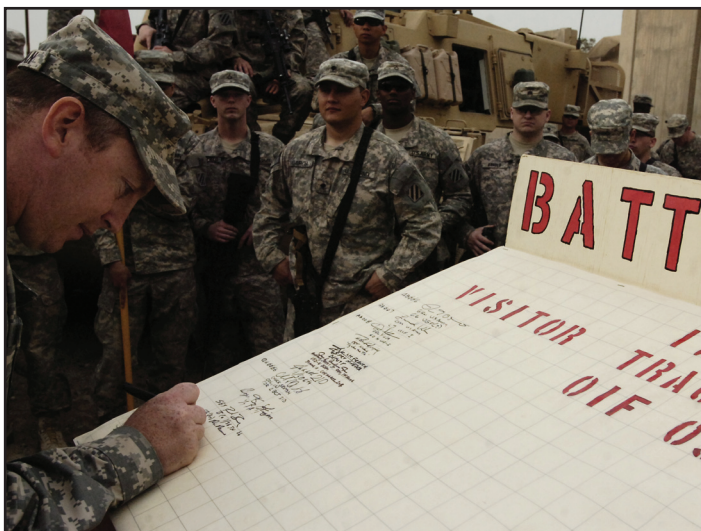


Photo by Spc. Crystal M. O'Neal, 2BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

Staff Sergeant (Ret.) Brian Neuman leaves his signature on 1/9th FA Regt., 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID's visitor's roster, documenting his trip there to see and spend time with the Battle King Soldiers during his visit to FOB Marez as a participant in Operation Proper Exit in which he and seven other Wounded Warriors were recognized for their sacrifices for the country.

Continued from POLICE, Page 1

ship with the people they protect.

"The underlying premise of the class is to get these guys out there and be the main independent security force at the community level," said 1st Lt. Alicia Mienko, 3rd platoon leader, 66th MP Co.

"The Iraqi Army has done a great job of securing Iraq. Now it's time for the police to take over and transition from combat operations to stability operations."

For the first two days of the five-day course, the MPs held classroom training to discuss specific actions and behavior that would help ensure a smooth transition.

For the following three days, they travelled through the local neighborhoods and markets with the Iraqi policemen, encouraging them to take an active interest in the activities of community members and help with even simple problems.

The practical portion, completed among the citizens, allowed Soldiers to see the improvements. As the IPs walked through the markets, they talked to anyone with a question or concern. During their time in Jalula, they were able to resolve a conflict between two merchants and make friends with local children.

"The other day at the market, I saw

a sergeant pick up a small child, and while he was holding him, I could tell it was something the people weren't used to," said Spc. Ryan Greenzwieg, a driver for 3rd Platoon. "That made the child happy, and the expression on the parents' faces showed they were glad to see him taking interest."

Instances where these police step out and connect with the community shows that the guidance they are being given will have a lasting effect.

"Having a presence in these communities gives the people faith," 1st Lt. Mienko said. "When they have that trust, the people will be more likely to talk to the police."

'Ranger' Mortarmen illuminate strategic oil pipeline

4IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kan., partnered with the 1st Battalion, 14th Iraqi Army Brigade, April 1, to participate in Operation White Lightning to combat oil smuggling along a 40 kilometer stretch of pipeline.

Throughout the night, mortarmen lit up the sky with 52 illumination rounds over the pipeline, exposing terrain to Iraqi Soldiers on the ground, so they could prevent smugglers from gaining access to the pipeline.

According to Capt. Paul Godson, commander of Company D, 2-16 Inf., the pipeline is a significant piece of infrastructure in the area.

"The purpose of this mission was to assist the Iraqi Army in deterring and disrupting criminal activity along the Strategic Oil Pipeline," he said. "One of the greatest challenges the Iraqi Army faces is securing this vast area at night."

The operation brought together each of the "Rangers" company mortar sections. Each section trained and rehearsed to ensure the effectiveness of the illumination rounds.

"It is a very coordinated and syn-

chronized set of events that has to happen before a round leaves a tube," said Staff Sgt. Justin Harper, a mortar team chief with Co. C, 2-16 Inf. As rounds illuminated, adjustments were made on the 60mm mortars to ensure accuracy, before the crew was able to provide five full minutes of illumination for the Iraqi Army.

"It takes a lot of training in order to sustain an illumination mission without a break in effects; it is always impressive to see," said Iraqi Army Maj. Sa'ad as he observed the mortar fire with officers from the 14th Iraqi Army Brigade Mortar Battery. "This was a great opportunity for us to compare the mortar firing techniques of our two armies."

The operation also served as a training event for the "Rangers" and the 14th IA. To prepare, leaders in both units examined maps, terrain and developed a plan.

"We taught [the 14th IA Brigade operations section] how to utilize enablers, such as fire support, to supplement their security operations. [Now] they are more aware of what tools are available and different ways to integrate them into their missions," said Capt. Godson.

Private First Class Alex Johnson and Pvt. 1st Class Gage McKeag, both mortarmen with Co. B, 2-16 Inf., were both eager to fire with their mortar sections.

"We fired in basic training, but today was the first time we fired a real fire mission in combat," Pvt. 1st Class Johnson said.



Courtesy Photo

First Lieutenant Tim Kuppler, an infantryman with 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4IBCT, 1st ID, along with IA Lt. Col. Riyadh and Maj. Khalid observe while mortarmen firing a 60mm illumination mission during Operation White Lightning, April 1.

Continued from NEUMAN, Page 2

he was excited and proud because he knew the Army's long-standing belief "No warrior is forgotten" was being proven as they spoke.

"After getting over the initial shock of seeing him in Iraq, Neuman and I began to joke and laugh as if five years had not passed.

He was very high in spirits and seemed like the same Brian Neuman I had always known," said Staff

Sgt. Nelson.

Because events like this reminds Soldiers like Staff Sgt. Neuman no matter how much time passes, their sacrifices will always be important; Staff Sgt. Nelson agreed these events are very important.

"Now, I know my friend will never have to wonder and ask himself if what he has gone through matters; he'll already know we care,"

said Staff Sgt. Nelson. "He and other Wounded Warriors will know they are still our brothers, brothers to those of us serving now, those who served before us and those who will come after us.

And we will always remember them and look out for them."

Staff Sergeant Neuman said despite all the adversity he had faced, his visit back

to Iraq, as well as his entire Army experience, were both very fulfilling.

"Even though I got hurt that day when I went out, I wouldn't change it for the world. I would do everything in my career exactly the same," Staff Sgt. Neuman said.

"Even though I'm no longer serving, I'm still a Soldier and the Army will always be in my blood."

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Sergeant Bradley Cox, of Victoria, Texas, is with 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. He serves as a UH-60 helicopter crew chief. He is responsible for the pre-operational checks, passenger loading and unloading, security on the ground and in flight, and post flight maintenance inspections. He is the go to expert when it comes to Blackhawk maintenance because of his technical knowledge and exceptional understanding of the helicopter. Sergeant Cox has flown more than 90 combat missions and accumulated more than 430 aircraft hours, more than any other Soldier within Task Force Diamond Head. He has flown with the Brigade Quick Reaction Force multiple times in air assaults, partnered training, and battlefield circulation missions throughout United States Division-North. His dedication to the mission and warrior spirit make Sergeant Cox an appropriate choice for today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Specialist Dustin Edwards, of Lawton, Okla., is with 2-3 Brigade Troop Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. He performed above and beyond the call of duty over the last month. As the sergeant of the guard for security element support's the Security Transition Team at the Ninewa Provincial Joint Coordination Center, Spc. Edwards was responsible for the protection of more than 100 Iraqi personnel, 19 U.S. personnel, and more than \$1,000,000 worth of equipment. He set the example by enthusiastically accomplishing all assigned tasks to a high standard. Specialist Edwards' efforts were critical to the success of the security team. He also developed a rapport with his Iraqi partners that improved security as well as furthered the long-term strategic relationship between the U.S. and Iraqi forces at the PJCC. His outstanding performance, maturity, and adaptability make Spc. Edwards a clear choice for today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

On this day, April 19, in history ...

www.history.com

1775 - The American Revolution begins, with 700 British troops Marching to Lexington to seize an American arsenal.

1861 - Baltimore, a city with strong pro-Confederate feelings, started a riot against Soldiers from the 6th Massachusetts Regiment passed through on it's way to Washington D.C.

1865 - President Abraham Lincoln's funeral held in Washington D.C.

1897 - John McDermott of New York runs and wins the first Boston Marathon.

1943 - German SS leader Heinrich Himmler ordered attacks against the Jewish residents forced to live in the Warsaw ghetto.

1964 - Race car driver Mario Andretti completes his inaugural Indy car race, finishing 11th place, in Trenton, N.J.

1995 - The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma is attacked, killing 168 people and injuring hundreds more.

Task Force Marne Kid Hero of the North

Andy Brenton is an energetic six year old military child. Since Andy's birth he's had to deal with his father being deployed three times!

Andy was even born at a military hospital while his Daddy was deployed. Andy loves everything Army but thinks when he grows up he might want to be a Marine.

Andy is an enthusiastic first grader and sings in the children's choir at church. He is very excited about being old enough to play baseball this summer.

He is very helpful at home and loves to help his Mom clean the windows and play with his little brother. Andy prays at night that God will keep his Daddy safe and will bring him home soon. Andy likes to read books to his Daddy on Skype. He can't wait for his Daddy to come home from Iraq, so they can play video games and ride bikes together. Andy is a very brave military child ... just check out his war face!



REGIONAL HEADLINES

Downtown Spokane duck nest raided

Spokane Spokesman- Review

SPOKANE, Wash. — Someone or something raided a mama duck's nest in downtown Spokane on Friday and made off with four of her six eggs. Several tulips that had sheltered the duck in a planter in front of the Lincoln Building were ripped from the flower bed and feathers were strewn about.

Gary Grissom, a loan officer with Academy Mortgage who has been monitoring the duck's nest, was devastated. The attack was sudden, he said, and not what he expected.

In an e-mail with the subject line "Something terrible happened!!!" Grissom wrote, "I have no idea what happened, but it may be over now ...

"I am so sick about it," he added. Friday morning Grissom said he'd been admiring the mama duck. "I took several pictures because she was just so pretty," he said.

He went to a meeting from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and saw the destruction of the nest when he returned. "What I saw was not what I was expecting," he said.

Just the day before, the loan officer and his co-workers had watched as the mama duck tucked her sixth egg into her nest, cushioned by feathers she'd carefully plucked from her belly, and slept for the first time in days.

The mama duck was settling in, and no one had been disturbing her at all, he said. But downtown employees who heard the news Friday said they weren't surprised. Upon learning where she'd made her nest last week, several were concerned she'd be in danger.

The list of suspects is varied.

Some downtown workers speculated a black crow may be responsible — they have been known to raid robins' nests, so why not ducks? Teenagers were named as another possibility. Dogs were also suspect.

Grissom is convinced the thief was human. "If it were an animal, there'd be egg shell or a cracked egg somewhere. But I haven't seen any."

He also hasn't seen the duck return, he said, but that's not unusual. She typically leaves around noon and doesn't come back until morning.

No witnesses have come forward. Security officers at various downtown buildings seemed a little disappointed that none of their surveillance cameras captured the crime.

"It's a pretty sad state out there right now," Grissom said of the scene in front of his window. "I am just so mad I had a meeting this morning."

Fishing cheater: I wasn't trying to win

United Press International

DALLAS, - A Texas man sentenced to 15 days in jail for cheating in a fishing competition said his actions were a protest against the sport.

Robby Rose, 45, who pleaded guilty to felony attempted theft, said he put a 1-pound weight in the 9-pound bass he caught during the October event at Lake Ray Hubbard in Dallas because he had repeatedly been accused of cheating at tournaments during the past 10 years, The Dallas Morning News reported April 15.

"I've been bullied by tournament

officials for the last eight years," he said. "I've passed more polygraphs than any other fisherman."

"It was a right cross to their jaw," Rose said of the October incident. "I wanted to embarrass the sport."

"Am I sorry about it? Could I have handled the whole episode better?" he said. "Yes, of course."

Rose, whose cheating entry would have won him a \$55,000 boat, was sentenced to 15 days in jail followed by five years' probation. He was also ordered to pay a \$3,000 fine and his fishing license was suspended for the duration of his probation.

Kudos to Kids

Post a message and your photo to your kids in the Fort Stewart April 29 Frontline and the Savannah April 30 Coastal Courier!

Use an MWR commercial computer or your personal computer to visit www.connectstewarthunter.com/kudosForKids for more information about the program.

Imagine the surprise on your kids face! Give them something they can cut out and keep for a lifetime!

Anti-Kidnapping tip:

Eliminate predictable routines or patterns for the enemy to exploit

THE North Star

The North Star is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of *The North Star* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 3rd Infantry Division. All editorial content of *The North Star* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Task Force Marne Public Affairs Office.

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,
1st Armored Division

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

TASK FORCE MARNE

Commanding General - Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo
Command Sergeant Major - Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse L. Andrews Jr.

Task Force Marne Public Affairs Staff

TF Marne PAO - Maj. Jeff Allen
TF Marne PA NCOIC - Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs
TF Marne Writer- Sgt. Johnathon Jobson

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor - Sgt. 1st Class Kelly McCargo
Editor- Spc. Michael Adams