

Above: Command Sergeant Major Gregory Dorsey, command sergeant major of 317th MP Bn., 49th MP Bde., out of Tampa, Fla., pays his respects to fallen law enforcement officers of USD – N during a candlelight vigil at COB Speicher, Iraq, May 10.

TF Marne comforts children with blankets

By Spc. Michael Adams
TF Marne PAO

One thing Col. William Finley, has never gotten used to during his two deployments in Iraq is children suffering.

Recently, the Toms River, N.J., native overheard that Sana Kappouta, a special adviser and women's coordinator for Task Force Marne Civil Affairs, was working with the only orphanage in Tikrit, which was in need of supplies. Colonel Finley felt like he could help.

He went to Kappouta and asked if they needed blankets. She said the children would greatly appreciate anything.

"If the American Soldier walks by something and it needs to be fixed, they try to fix it," said Col. Finley. "I've always been a sucker for children. I hate to see a child that looks like they need something."

Colonel Finley, who serves as the chief for Fires and Effects for Task Force Marne contacted Laura Good. Good, of Seminole County, Okla., arranged for the production of more than 200 blankets during "Operation: Blankets are OK," the OK stands for Good's home state of Oklahoma.

There are only 60 children at the Tikrit Orphanage. The remaining



Courtesy Photo

A child living at the Tikrit Orphanage holds a blanket he received as part of "Operation: Blankets are OK," April 29, in Tikrit.

blankets will go to other orphanages throughout northern Iraq.

Her efforts were funded in part by the Seminole Indian Nation in Oklahoma. This is the first time the organization volunteered for a project like this in Iraq.

But "Operation: Blankets are OK" didn't just send blankets, they sent other goods for the children, coloring books, pencils, toothbrushes, toothpaste, candy and stuffed animals.

The blankets Good helped to provide comforted children in a devastated area of northern Iraq.

While Good was happy to be a part of the project, she wanted to emphasize the servicemembers in Iraq were making the difference.

"This truly is not about the generosity of people here," she said. "Although they are incredibly giving. This is about a Soldier that

cares for the people in Iraq that are suffering, especially for the children."

Colonel Finley has known Good since 2007, when he was commander of the Military Transition Team for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. She led an effort to make more than 300 blankets for Iraqis who needed it after a devastating car bomb killed 40 people in his area of operations and Col. Finley asked for help on the Web site, www.anySoldier.com.

Kappouta, expressed her gratitude to Col. Finley and the American forces for what they did.

"U.S. forces have been very supportive," she said. "I thank you, the orphanage thanks you, the Iraqis thank you for the donations and contributions the orphans are getting."

While Col. Finley realizes that the impact the dona-

tions had were immediate, he hoped it would help for the long-term progress of Iraq.

He added that the children are the future of Iraq. He said he hopes that Iraqi children share stories of America's acts of kindness with their children.

He also added that he wishes that the children see the military as liberators and not occupiers.

"They can talk about when the Americans were here, they won't talk about us as the occupiers, but as these wonderful people that gave them a democracy, that gave them a lot of things they didn't have and they can tell the story about the time the American Soldier gave me a soccer ball, or the American Soldier gave me a blanket. I think in the long term this is something that will be long-lasting. At least that's what I hope."

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Police Company, stationed at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, presented a wreath in honor of the fallen.

The 545th MP Co., Ft. Richardson, Ala., sustained the most recent loss in the USD-N area: three military police Soldiers were killed while on a convoy to Bayji, Iraq, Sept. 8, 2009.

The ceremony concluded with a

candlelight vigil. As the glow of the candles lit the somber faces of servicemembers and civilians, the fallen police officers were honored with a three-round volley, followed by the playing of "Taps."

"This is a time of nation-wide remembrance of those law enforcement personnel who have lost their lives in

the line of duty," said Mr. Roberts.

"For us it is a time for reflection and re-commitment to our military and civilian values as servicemembers and peacekeepers We are here to remind ourselves why we carry out our duties as guardians for the security of our citizens, our communities, and our country."

Soldiers Secure Iraq by stepping aside

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

Nothing ever stays the same. This truism applies to all U.S. Soldiers currently serving in Iraq as their responsibility and mission is significantly different from just six months ago.

No longer unilaterally conducting combat opera-



Photo by Pvt. Zachary Zuber,
3rd SBCT, 2nd ID. PAO

Sergeant Kayla Buzzard, with 2nd Plt., 66th MP Co., takes cover behind a tree to provide security during a clearing mission in Diyala province, May 3.

tions, they are advising Iraqi-taught training courses and supporting Iraqi-led missions.

Iraqi policemen, with assistance from the Skyes' Regulars of Battle Company, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, performed a security patrol through one of three areas of northern Buhritz on May 3.

The Soldiers from Battle Co., 5/20 Inf., walked unfamiliar ground during the operation as they reversed roles with the Iraqi policemen, who planned and led the mission. Working in support of the IPs has required them to be flexible as they get used to a different leadership role.

The Soldiers who have deployed before can see the security situation has improved just by looking at who they are working with.

"The last time the brigade was here, we would only see

maybe 10 or 20 Iraqis for a patrol like this," said Staff Sgt. Merriman.

"Now, they have 60 or even 80 come out so we have basically flipped roles from our last deployment to having them completely take the lead."

While preparing for this mission, the Iraqis also requested female search teams to be ready to search females in the urban environment.

To accommodate that need, female Soldiers from 2nd platoon, 66th Military Police Company, attached to 3rd SBCT, 2nd ID, came along to provide support.

"On our last deployment, this was our daily task," said Sgt. Kayla Buzzard, team leader for 2nd Platoon, 66th MP Co. "Since we aren't operating in the cities anymore, we don't do a whole lot of it this time."

The MPs have spent much of their time training IP search teams, including

the ones who came out on this mission.

"They had one of our trainees [an Iraqi police-woman] out there, who actually now helps teach classes with us," said Sgt. Buzzard. "It was great to see her out there doing her thing and see what she learned from us."

The rarity of these elements, with the new focus on filling a secondary role, has allowed the Soldiers of Battle Co. to concentrate on their final months of their deployment.

"These days we don't do sector patrols like this at all, and when we get into urban environments like this, there are tons of places to watch," said Staff Sgt. Merriman.

"We're almost to month 10, which is a time where Soldiers can get complacent, so everybody has to be more on their toes now to make sure we get our job done safely."

HEY DOC!



By Sgt. Linsey McCray
TF Marne Health Care Sergeant

Speicher medical facilities soon to close, relocate

In preparation for redeployment, the Troop Medical Clinic, Division – Main and Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division Aid Station are closed on Sundays. All medical emergencies will need to go

to the 21st Combat Support Hospital's Emergency Department.

Beginning June 1, a number of other moves and closures will occur. The 701st Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Troop Medical Clinic will close. The Physical Therapy, Radiology, Laboratory, Optometry and Dental Clinics have already relocated to the 21st CSH.

Audiology will relocate to 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division's Aid Station, in Building 4925. The TMC Immunizations Clinic will remain open Monday - Friday 1 – 4 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. – noon but will also relocate to the 21st CSH.

The Battalion Aid Station for DSTB will relocate to Building 10002, past the North Dining Facility, to the TMC currently operated by the 1st Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade.

The Battalion Aid Station will assume responsibility for completing all Post Deployment Health Assessments after June 1.

The 21st CSH is tentatively scheduled to move in July.

The TMC's schedule for May will be posted at the D-MAIN Aid Station as well as at the TMC for any further guidance.

Here is the contact information for Contingency Operating Base Speicher's medical facilities: TMC, NIPR: 845-6526 or SIPR: 242-1198. CSH's Patient Administration Office: SIPR: 242-1218. Audiology Clinic: SIPR: 242-1007/6 and will be operating out of 25th CAB's Aid Station.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to stop by the D - Main Aid Station and all of our medics will be happy to assist you. Rock of the Marne.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Sergeant Asia Glass, of Middletown, N.Y., is with 2nd Squadron, 159th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. She serves as a technical aviation logistical supply noncommissioned officer. She currently serves as the NCOIC and maintains \$40,000,000 worth of prescribed load lifts and bench stock parts for her unit's task organized aircraft. She efficiently and effectively managed the transfer and shipment of 100 percent of the PLL, bench stock and civilian contractor support assets from Joint Base Balad to Contingency Operating Site Diamondback during the Task Force's recent move. She maintained sufficient launch and recovery requirements which enabled the task force to simultaneously conduct their unit move and conduct combat operations without the loss of air coverage. Sergeant Glass is a consistent top performer, always maintains a positive attitude, and has contributed immensely to mission success. Sergeant Glass has truly earned the distinction of being today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Sergeant Victor Ramos, of Hollis, N.Y., is with 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He serves as a company fire support noncommissioned officer and is responsible for a six Soldier section. He expertly serves as a stryker vehicle commander for the company commander and has participated in 100 combat patrols and more than 60 key leader engagements. His diverse skills serve the company well, as evident in his selection to serve as the unit's interpreter manager. Sergeant Ramos trained more than 25 Soldiers from the 5th Iraqi Army Division in call for fire procedures and his actions prove he is an exceptional fire support NCO. His intestinal fortitude as a fire support specialist and forward observers exceeds the battalion standard for NCOs and Soldiers alike. His motivation brings great credit upon his company, battalion and brigade, making him a most worthy choice as today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

Daughters of Iraq vital to security effort

Cultural Tidbit Special to the North Star

The Daughters of Iraq is a military organization that is comprised entirely of women. It was formed in Diyala in 2007.

The purpose of the organization was to make it easier for Iraqi and American troops to search female suicide bombers for explosives.

Women in Diyala welcomed the

organization as it provided much-needed jobs to women in the province, especially to women who had lost their husbands to violence.

The DoI were successful in significantly reducing the number of suicide bombers, even as searching women went against the traditions of the area.

The organization started with approximately 100 women but grew to more than 220.

Their influence grew, as it was

instrumental in educating the local populace about the dangers of Al-Qaeda, and became a vital part of intelligence gathering in the area.

Even though the security situation has improved and threats against the organization are still down, the DoI still maintain a low profile and reveal where they work to very few people.

Editor's note: Nagim Jadou, a translator with Task Force Marne, contributed to this article.

Safety Thought of the Week: Laser Fratricide

- *Ensure all personnel are familiar with laser hazards.*
- *Never shine a laser at anyone's face if they are closer than 50 meters.*
- *Include laser safety precautions when briefing rules of engagement and escalation of force procedures.*
- *Ensure laser operator are trained on proper use and familiar with hazards and controls.*
- *Treat green lasers with the same respect and care you would a loaded weapon.*
- *Never use green lasers against Coalition Forces, Soldiers, convoys or non-hostile persons and vehicles for any reason.*



REGIONAL HEADLINES

Putty knife, dirty water used in assault

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

OAK HARBOR, Wash. - A 46-year-old Oak Harbor man is accused of throwing dirty water and cutting a man with a putty knife for no apparent reason, court documents state.

Prosecutors charged Bryan Street in Island County Superior Court May 4 with assault in the second degree and assault in the fourth degree.

Island County Deputy Matt Mishler investigated the June 4, 2009 assault at a job site on Marie Way near Oak Harbor.

The two alleged victims said they were sitting in a truck when Street approached them, carrying a putty knife and a cup of dirty water.

One of the men said he thanked Street for getting him the job when Street "snapped" and started yelling at him. Street threw the dirty water into the truck and then slashed the driver's arm with the putty knife, the report states.

Mishler wrote that the cut was "not deep" and less than 3 inches long.

Street could face up to a year in jail if convicted of the charges.

Salad bowls lead to suspect in bomb case

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

COLEYVILLE, Texas - "Amazing detective work" in tracing two wooden salad bowls led authorities to a

51-year-old real estate broker now accused of placing a homemade bomb on the doorstep of his former wife's Colleyville home, a federal prosecutor said May 6.

Bomb-making materials, handwritten notes about making bombs and a will dated May 3, the day the explosive device was found, were seized May 5 in a search of the home of David Barouch in far north Fort Worth, investigators reported.

That afternoon, Barouch was led before newly seated U.S. Magistrate Jeffrey Cureton in the Fort Worth federal courthouse.

Cureton ordered Barouch to stay behind bars until a hearing, which he set for 9:30 a.m. May 4, to determine whether Barouch will be released with conditions.

Barouch was taken to the Parker County Jail. He faces a federal charge of possession of an unregistered destructive device, authorities said. According to a search-warrant affidavit, a FedEx box opened by

Barouch's ex-wife after she returned home from church May 3 contained the two bowls taped together with masking tape, and a six-volt battery and a large bag of black/gray powder, the affidavit stated.

"Taking the bowls apart was supposed to have formed a circuit that would have set off the gunpowder," federal prosecutor Bret Helmer said after the morning of May 6.

"The detectives determined that these bowls were sold only at Bed,

Bath and Beyond."

The investigators found that the Bed, Bath & Beyond store at North East Mall in Hurst was the only one in the area that had sold two of the same bowls in one transaction within the past 30 days, the affidavit stated.

The bowls, B. Smith acacia wood round salad bowls, were purchased April 14.

A review of surveillance camera video showed Barouch buying the bowls and other material, according to the affidavit.

"That was amazing detective work," Helmer said.

Colleyville police had reported that Barouch's ex-wife, who lives in the 1000 block of Dogwood Court, called 911 about 11 a.m., May 2 to say she had found a suspicious package on her front porch about 8 a.m. that morning.

The package was addressed to her and labeled "Salad Sweepstakes" from Salads R Us in Houston, according to the affidavit.

Police released a segment of the woman's 911 call after she opened the package.

"I opened it and there was a battery in it," she told the call-taker. "My neighbor said it looks like a homemade bomb."

Anti-Kidnapping tip:

Maintain operational security. Do not discuss personal information with strangers or local populace. Don't give hostiles the opportunity or information to find you later.

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,
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