

Marne Focus

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Serving Task Force Marne and MND-Center

Marne Torch begins south of Baghdad

2nd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Fixed-wing aircraft dropped four precision-guided bombs on targeted sites preventing insurgents from entering southern Baghdad June 16.

This was the beginning of a major offensive operation dubbed Marne Torch.

The aircraft supported approximately 1,200 Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division who are focused on the security belts surrounding Baghdad.

The 2nd Brigade Soldiers' have the mission of defeating insurgent activity, denying the enemy sanctuary and preventing terrorist elements from moving accelerants from the Arab Jabour area into Baghdad.

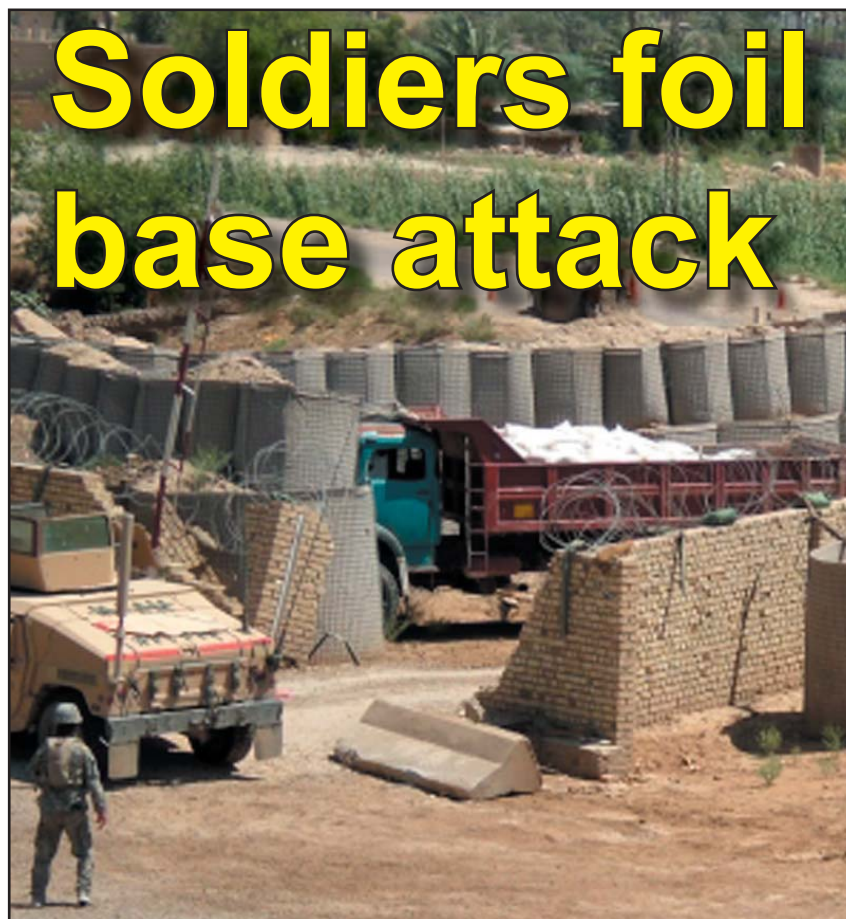
The brigade's efforts in Arab Jabour are part of the larger operation recently announced by Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Gen. David Petraeus, Multi-National-Force commander.

"Our Soldiers are well trained, and I am extremely proud of the work they have accomplished over the past several weeks in preparation for this operation," said Col. James Adams, 2nd BCT Deputy Commanding Officer.

Marne Torch is named for the historical British-American invasion of French North Africa in World War II that took place in 1942.

Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division fought alongside its British comrades, and at a modest cost, gave the Allies substantial beachheads in North Africa.

Soldiers foil base attack



U.S. Army photo

A dump truck loaded with homemade explosives sits near the south entrance to Patrol Base Warrior Keep. The driver was wearing a suicide vest, but was detained before he was able to detonate it. See story page 4.



10th Mountain Division
Soldier receives Silver Star
page 4



Chaplain nets Soldiers
interest with fishing
page 9

Combatives training reinforces warrior ethos

Story by Spc. William Hatton
Task Force Marne PAO

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – In the midst of a long and ammunition-filled battle between Soldiers and insurgents; what are a Soldier's options when the ammunition runs dry?

As the enemy closes in, one option might cross the mind ... run. Another option is to rely on the primitive basic instincts to stay and fight, which leaves the Soldier to take on the enemy in a "too close for comfort" type of approach.

For Soldiers in the Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, combative classes are being held to help Soldiers hone in on that instinct to fight. The class is not only established to teach students how to take on the enemy on a closer level, but to do it successfully through proper techniques and use of the mind.

"What we're trying to do is to get the Soldiers to gain the confidence to get close to the enemy in hand-to-hand combat," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Jones, a Level 4 Army Combatives Course instructor with Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, STB, 3rd Inf. Div.

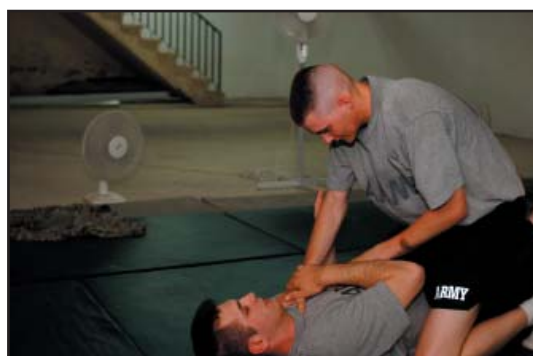
"That is the fighting characteristic of the

warrior ethos," added Jones.

The Army Combatives Course Level 1 is a 40-hour class and is designed to teach students ground grappling, which is the ability to control your opponent through various chokes and holds, Jones said.

The course teaches ground grappling because it is easy to teach, and it is easy to learn,

See COMBATIVES, page 12



Spc. William Hatton
Spc. Justin Elliott (top) and Spc. Jeremy Allen (bottom), with Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, practice different holds and movements during the Modern Army Combative Class.



Combat medics gain experience in Baghdad ER
page 11



Marne 6 sends

Celebrating Soldiers' unfaltering service on Army's birthday

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THE MARNE FORWARD

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It must have been just like this 232 years ago. In those days American patriots, common people with uncommon dreams, came together with one passion. To live in peace with the freedom that God had granted each one.

In those days tyranny reigned and starved our young nation of her prosperity and dignity. In those days our Army was born of brave men who would break the chains of injustice and forever change our world.

Surely there were dark days. Bitter losses and doubt often over shadowed our patriot forefather's dreams. But in those moments came forward stout hearted men and women who bore the name "American Soldier" and wrested victory for us all.

Countless times since, our nation has called. Many a threat has approached our shore. But our Army answered and we prevailed.

In the wake of December 7th 1941 and September 11th 2001. On the fields of battle in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Southwest Asia. Our Army, its men and women have liberated nations, eliminated oppression, and delivered hope.

I am so very proud of the great men and women with whom I serve. Braving heat, fa-

tigue, and the threat of America's enemies on the field of battle you continue to Soldier just as the generations that preceded you. You are relentless and inspirational, our new greatest generation. You are Army Strong.

Today these 49 Soldiers who stand before us continue the remarkable tradition of noble service in the greatest Army the world has ever known. It is fitting that we celebrate our Army's birthday by honoring the centerpiece of her greatness - her people.

These are the finest people that our society has ever produced. They come from every part of our country, from every walk of life, of every religion, and every race. They define the best attributes of America. They have embraced the ideals, the disciplines, and values of our Army.

They have accepted the yoke of responsibility to serve and lead in our Army while our nation is at war. They are courageous. They are selfless. They are loyal. And they are worthy of emulation.

We are proud of you. We are proud to serve with you. We are grateful to the Families you represent and the communities from which you come. We are confident in you - knowing - that while you serve, the freedom we were bestowed will be preserved for



**Task Force Marne Commander,
Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch**

generations yet to come.

To our Army - Happy Birthday. To these great Americans - Congratulations on your reenlistment. May God bless you all.

ROCK OF THE MARNE!



Photo illustration by Spc. William Hatton



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Chaplain's Corner

Restoration takes skill, healing requires time

By Chap. (Lt. Col.) Harlon Triplett
MND-C Chaplain

One of the greatest masterpieces ever painted is the fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Painted by the master, Michelangelo, the scenes depict God's creation of man and our relationship with him. Over the years this unique, priceless, and irreplaceable ceiling has started deteriorating and stain so badly that it needed to be restored.

Several years ago the Catholic Church undertook the restoration project to bring the ceiling back to its former beauty and glory. The extensive and exhaustive restoration work cost millions of dollars, took several years, and was undertaken by master restorationists of the highest skill level. If the ceiling had been improperly restored by amateurs it would have

been rendered worthless.

In contrast to the restoration of this masterpiece in 1970, when I was junior in high school, I bought a 1957 Chevy two ten two-door sedan and started to restore it.

What I learned by undertaking the project of restoring this rusty old Chevrolet is that it cost way more money than I thought it would and a lot more money than I had. It took way more time than I thought it would and a lot more time than I had. It took way more expertise than I ever thought it would and a lot more expertise than I had.

Can you identify with any of this?

Are you in need of restoration?

Does any part of your life need to be restored because of something that has happened to you or something that was done to you?

Perhaps your emotions, your marriage, your

spirit, your finances, your work, your health, or a relationship you have with someone needs to be restored. Perhaps your faith in God needs to be restored.

If this is the case I would encourage you to turn your attention towards God and focus in on his ability to restore you. You are priceless to God and He loves you.

In order to restore something you need to know a lot about the thing you are restoring and you need to know how it looked and how it worked originally. God designed you and he is an expert restorationist who knows exactly what the real you should look like and be like.

Trust in God and he will restore your spirit and will bring you peace. This is God's promise in the 23rd Psalm when David tells us that God "restores my soul."

God Bless, Chaplain Triplett



Chap. (Lt. Col.) Harlon Triplett

Meditating in the field: Chaplains bring higher power to combat

By Spc. Chris McCann
2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq — It has been said that there are no atheists in foxholes. The stress of life-and-death situations of combat can make the most hardened Soldier look toward a higher power.

In order to provide that counsel and communion, that hope and holiness, there are chaplains.

Chaplain (Maj.) Lonnie Locke, a native of Dothan, Ala., and chaplain for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), oversees his brigade's six chaplains.

"A chaplain's main purpose is to be a representative between Soldiers and the commander," said Locke. "The religious program is the commander's, we just run it.

"We have a responsibility to see that each Soldier has his constitutional right to worship as he sees fit," Locke said. "We're ultimately here to uphold every Soldier's privilege of worship."

Aiding each chaplain in his duties is a chaplain's assistant, an enlisted Soldier trained in the myriad necessities of the administrative part of the chaplain's work.

"I think chaplain's assistants do not receive enough credit for what they do," said Chaplain (Capt.) Jeffery Bryan of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT. "Mine is excellent. Although I don't carry a weapon, I don't feel any need to, because he does such a great job."

Locke agrees that chaplain's assistants play a critical role in unit ministry.

"Chaplain's assistants have special skills as enlisted Soldiers," Locke said. "They have the training and are able to see people's problems and do 'triage' for us. They support us not only by being our protectors, but also providing technical help."

"We set up services for the chaplain," said Sgt. Michael Frickie, a native of Cache, Okla., and assistant to Chaplain (Capt.) Danny Wilson. They serve the 1st

Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd BCT. "During the week we screen people who come in for counseling, do paperwork, whatever the chaplain needs done. And off the forward operating bases, we're bodyguards, since the chaplain is a noncombatant."

The assistants, besides training on common tasks and Soldier skills, coordinate with units for training, environmental leave and deployment briefings, prayer breakfasts, and retreats.

Staff Sgt. Randall Hansen, a native of Alpine, Utah, and assistant to Locke, explained that the chaplain's assistant position also carries some heavy burdens.

"We're trained to recognize the symptoms of combat stress and suicide," he said. "And we know basic intervention. We're also the funds clerks. The chaplain's assistant gathers offerings and deposits them into sub-accounts for each denomination. We keep accountability of each group's funds."

Many assistants are drawn to the military occupational specialty because they are religious, but the only requirement is that they demonstrate a "higher moral character" than other Soldiers.

Perhaps the toughest aspect of being a chaplain's assistant is that the chaplain and his assistant are seldom of the same religious affiliation.

"You have to be flexible enough to work with any chaplain and his religious preference," said Hansen. "It may not be the same."

The job also comes with rewards, he added.

"Out in the field, we're able to move around and visit Soldiers to provide them with some small spiritual enhancement," Hansen said. "They're in the trenches and their spirits can get low. Any spirit we can bring them enhances them."

The chaplains are perhaps most visible while conducting religious services, but that's not their primary workload, Locke said.

"Seventy to seventy-five percent of our work is done in counseling, depending on where we're at," said Locke.

"Back in the rear, most of it is about relationships and marriage counseling. Here it's about death and dying, coping with grief ... making sense of 'why God allowed my friend to die.' Depending on where we're at, the type of counseling changes."

"I'm wired for counseling," he said. "It's part of my job that I really enjoy. And it's amazing how people's problems fall into two or three different categories. On the spiritual side, people get frustrated with their lives, and they're seeking something in the physical world that can only come through a strong spiritual relationship with God. They need to redirect their attention from filling that void with other stuff and realize that God is the only one who can fill that."

"On the other side, we do a lot of counseling about relationships and deployments. Many people don't know how to communicate well. They need to prepare their relationships for long periods of separation. They deploy and leave their spouses behind with little support."

Spirituality, as well as communication, is critical in combat, said Locke.

"In order to be ready as a Soldier for combat, you must be preparing mentally and spiritually to (deal with death.) That's part of the mix — the reality of life and death is very obvious in combat and religion speaks about what there is after life."

"Most Americans are religious," said Bryan. "Soldiers are no exception, and war causes many participants to consider life and death. Not only does freedom of religion help Soldiers deal with the issues of war, it helps support the very freedom of religion they fight for."

Trying to provide hope, though, can sometimes be frustrating, said Locke. Making sure that all Soldiers are taken care of can be difficult.

"Chaplains and their assistants help Soldiers by befriending them in battle and comforting them if they're hurt," Bryan said. "And we help bring closure by conducting memorial ceremonies."

TRUCK, from page 1

Sentries foil attack aimed at patrol base

Wounded truck driver wearing suicide vest treated for injuries

2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) PAO

PATROL BASE WARRIOR KEEP, Iraq – Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., thwarted a vehicle-borne improvised explosive attack at Patrol Base Warrior Keep, near Sadr Al-Yusufiyah, June 10.

Spc. Brandon Rork, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, and a rifleman with the 2-14th was manning a machine gun on top of PB Warrior Keep and spotted a driver in a dump truck attempting to break through the base's perimeter barriers.

Rork and Spc. Charles Osgood, a native of Chesapeake, Va., a rifleman with an M-4 rifle, both fired at the truck repeatedly, until it stopped.

Soldiers from the patrol base then detained the man. The driver of the truck was wounded in the upper right leg during his attempt to bomb the base. Seeing that the man was wounded, the Soldiers rendered aid and evacuated him to the 31st Combat Support Hospital. As Soldiers removed the driver from the vehicle they discovered he was wearing a suicide vest. It was later determined that those injuries rendered the driver unable to activate his initiation switch or his explosive vest.

The man was held for further questioning and prosecution.

"The Soldier in the machine gun position was very alert ... and able to engage and stop a dump truck suicide bomber bent on destroying the entire patrol base," said Lt. Col. John Valledor, a native of New York, N.Y., and the commander of the 2-14 "Golden Dragons."

The explosive ordnance team said the truck contained over 8,000 pounds of homemade explosive material. The ordnance teams continues to methodically render the explosives safe through multiple controlled detonations.

The incident is still under investigation.

Ranger awarded Silver Star, unit members receive dozen honors

Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie
2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) PAO

PATROL BASE DRAGON, Iraq – The Silver Star is the fourth highest military decoration awarded to a member of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States. It may be awarded to any person distinguishing himself for extraordinary heroism.

Often, the medal is awarded to Soldiers who risk their lives to save others.

Two Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment "Golden Dragons," 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., received such awards during a ceremony at Patrol Base Dragon, Iraq June 8.

SILVER STAR

Master Sgt. Eric Gagne, a native of Francestown, N.H., who serves as the reconnaissance platoon sergeant for 2-14, was awarded the Silver Star for distinguishing himself for exceptionally heroic conduct. He is credited for capturing several improvised explosive device cells, IED caches, weapons and terrorists involved in hostile acts against coalition and Iraqi forces.

After receiving the award for his many acts of gallantry Gagne shared some thoughts of his own.

"I look at this award as more what the platoon has accomplished. I think the entire platoon takes ownership of this," Gagne said after receiving the medal.

The former ranger instructor noted that he is just performing standard infantry skills

"We get out and walk," he said. "So far the old school light infantry tactics are working. It is all basic Ranger School, Field Manual 7-8 tactics."

Gagne's platoon has been awarded 12 valorous awards during Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Staff Sgt. Anthony Skirko, a native of Kemp, Texas, who serves as a fire support officer with 2-14, was awarded the Soldier's Medal for distinguishing himself by rescuing Soldiers from a Humvee that had rolled over in a canal.

While Skirko was on a search-and-attack mission in the Shakriyah Triangle, Iraq, he heard that a vehicle in his patrol had flipped over in a canal. Upon arriving at the site, Skirko threw off his helmet and body armor and submerged himself into the rancid water to open the door to free the trapped Soldiers. After forcing open the re-enforced armor door to the Humvee he crawled into the vehicle and pulled the Soldiers out.



Maj. Web Wright

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch (left), Task Force commander pins a Silver Star on Master Sgt. Eric Gagne, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) at Patrol Base Dragon Swamp, June 9.

"The task is difficult to do with a Humvee simply parked on the street," said Lt. Col. John Valledor, the 2-14 commander and native of Weehawken, N.J. "But opening the doors under five feet of muddy water is nearly impossible. Sgt. Skirko, guided by a desire to save his fellow Soldiers, found the strength to, not only pry the doors open, but to remove all the crew members."

AWARDS

See MEDAL, page 5

'Golden Dragons' kill rebel, seize weapons near mosque

2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) PAO

PATROL BASE DRAGON, Iraq – Coalition Forces killed an insurgent, detained a suspected terrorist and seized

weapons near a mosque June 13.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment "Golden Dragons," 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) from Fort Drum, N.Y., noticed four men wearing ski masks armed with AK-47s setting up an illegal checkpoint near the Feotah Mosque just 20 miles southwest of Baghdad through an unmanned aerial vehicle.

The insurgents were conducting the operations from a nearby house.

Soldiers from the Golden Dragon's quick reaction force conducted a hasty air assault to search the house.

While the QRF was air assaulting the unmanned aerial vehicle spotted the truck leave the house and park near the mosque.

Attack aviation was dispatched to the site and immediately shot the truck.

An insurgent was killed and others were spotted running into a canal away from Coalition forces.

An Iraqi man was detained and is being held for further questioning.

Two Ak-47s and a PKC machine gun were recovered from the house.



Sgt. Billie Caperton, a medic with the 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, hands an Iraqi child a toy that was mailed from supporters back home in a Victory Box during a recent visit to the Civil Military Operations Center southeast of Baghdad, June 9.

Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie

Soldiers help Iraqi children through American support

Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie
2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div.

RADWANIYAH, Iraq – Jasmine, an Iraqi child with unkempt hair and dressed in tattered clothes, reached her hand out for a pair of shoes. She was not concerned with the brand, style or even the size of the shoes, she simply wanted a pair of shoes to replace the sandals she was wearing – sandals which were too small, causing her toes to touch the pavement when she walked.

Providing needed items such as this was a highlight for Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers from the 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, who assisted in handing out anything from shoes to shampoo to Iraqi children like Jasmine at the Civil Military Operations Center June 9, southeast of Baghdad.

“I wanted to be able to do something nice to help the community and show the Iraqis we are here to help them,” said Michelle Winicki, a medic with the 210th BSB.

The items the Soldiers passed out to the children came from the support of the American people in boxes.

The idea was started by Mary Halleck, of Colleyville, Texas. Halleck originally started sending boxes to Soldiers who had no families to send them anything.

After sending numerous care packages to Soldiers, Halleck received a letter from a Soldier asking her if she would be able to send school supplies to the Iraqi children.

After a few fundraisers, Halleck and her friends came up with the idea of ‘Victory Boxes’ – boxes containing goods needed for the Iraqi people to help them in their fight for freedom.

“I’ve never really done anything for my country,” Halleck said. “I envisioned our (American) families sending boxes to the people of Iraq through the Soldiers.”

The boxes were intended to help the Iraqis as they train to defend their country, get their economy going, clothe their families and educate their children.

“The support (that the Iraqi people are receiving) is great,” said Sgt. Billie Caperton, a medic with 210th BSB. “It feels like the Iraqis want us here, and it feels good that the American people understand (the Iraqi people) are in a tough situation and want to help them.”

Unlike the majority of children who ask for the latest video game or name-brand clothes, the Iraqi children ask for basic necessities – items like shampoo, shoes, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Most of the children asking for the items have never had the money to buy products to wash their hair or brush their teeth. For them, these items are special.

The simple act of giving the Iraqi children basic items has led to the discovery of dangerous weapons and improvised-explosive devices. Sometimes when the Iraqi children recognize Soldiers who have helped them, they show the Soldiers where such dangerous weapons are located.

“Giving the children items they need helps them get over the fear of people (Soldiers) in uniform,” said Capt. Mark Griffin, a civil affairs officer, who operates with the 2nd BCT, a native of San Antonio. “It shows them that people in uniform are not bad.”

With the help of people like Halleck, Soldiers are able to help the Iraqi people.

“This is a great program because there is such a huge need for supplies in Iraq,” Griffin said. “When the American people get involved, it helps us push products out and give the Iraqi people a better shot at standing up their country. They are given the things they need to survive.”

Currently, the 2nd BCT Soldiers are helping get these special boxes out to the Iraqi people. Overall, there have been approximately 5,000 boxes sent to Soldiers.

“These boxes are from the American people to the Iraqi people through the Soldiers,” Halleck added.

Now, with the support of the American people, Iraqi children like Jasmine will be able to wear a pair of shoes that fit, wash their hair and brush their teeth.

For more information about Victory Boxes log on to www.victoryboxes.com.

Injured children evacuated from Yusufiyah area

2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. PAO

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – In separate incidents, two local national children in the Yusufiyah, Iraq, area, were medically evacuated from Coalition Force bases to a combat support hospital June 13 and 15.

A 7-year-old boy and his mother came to Patrol Base Bataan, southwest of Yusufiyah June 13 to be treated by the medics of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry).

The boy had apparently fallen from a moving vehicle and suffered a badly bruised head. His pupils were unequal and he had an irregular heartbeat.

The medics treated the boy as much as they could and requested an air evacuation to the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad.

In another incident, three local residents came to soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division at Forward Operating Base Yusufiyah June 15 and claimed they had struck an improvised explosive device near the Euphrates River. One of the three was an 8-year-old boy who had an open fracture of his arm and a perforated liver. Iraqi and U.S. medics of 4-31 examined the patients.

The boy was medically evacuated to the 28th CSH; the other two were treated and released.

MEDAL, from page 5

Eleven other Soldiers from 2-14 received valorous awards at the ceremony. Valledor commented about the Soldiers of 2-14 receiving such prestigious awards.

“I am extremely proud of these men. Their actions personify selfless service and valor,” Valledor said of the awardees. “It is our desire that by highlighting the great deeds of these brave men their actions will inspire their fellow Soldiers to do the same.”

“Our fight here is far from over and I have no doubt that there will be more ceremonies like this one in the weeks to come,” Valledor added. “Our battalion has a lot of history in front of it ... If the actions of these great men are any indicator, the final accounting of our tour here will be simply inspiring. Golden Dragons!”



Task Force Marne Commander Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch (left) pins a Soldier's Medal on Staff Sgt. Anthony Skirko, a fire support officer with the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, at Patrol Base Dragon, June 8.

Maj. Web Wright

Operation Brutus nabs six in Iskandariyah

Story by Sgt. Marcus Butler

4th BCT (ABN), 25th Inf. Div. Public Affairs

ISKANDARIYAH, Iraq – The sounds of rotator blades fill the night sky as UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters descended out of the blackness and touched down at the landing zone of Forward Operation Base Iskandariyah, Iraq.

Through swirling clouds of dust, paratroopers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Regiment and Iraqi army soldiers lined up June 4, along the landing zone awaiting the sign to load the

helicopters and begin Operation Brutus.

“Operation Brutus was an air assault mission focused on capturing ... or denying enemy sanctuary in the area,” said 1st Lt. Michael Kelvington, a platoon leader with Company A and native of Akron, Ohio.

In a flash, they were all loaded on the aircrafts and on their way to their objectives.

Flying under the cover of darkness, the UH-60s reached their destinations and unloaded the war fighters less than 300 meters away from the two objectives.

Once on ground and close to their objectives, the ground force was divided into one fire support team and two search teams.

“Once we exited the aircraft, each team secured their area and located the mission target objective,” said David “Maverick” Cox, an Anchorage, Alaska, native and platoon sergeant for Company A.

After the target was located, the teams lay waiting for the signal. With a few cracks of radio transmission, the assault teams began to swarm on the two targets simultaneously.

As the assault team moved onto the locations, the support by fire team kept a vigilant eye out for any unexpected danger.

“We set up the support by fire position while the assault teams moved inside the target locations to clear out the areas,” said Staff Sgt. Chris Loken, fire support NCO and Crestview, Fla., native. “We moved to a rooftop so we could coordinate fire support for both locations simultaneously.”

With the mission in full swing, the assault teams quickly cleared the objectives and detained key personnel as well as weapons and valuable intelligence.

Once the objectives were cleared, all members of the teams moved back to the rallying point awaiting extraction.

Even though this was the first air assault operation for Company A, the paratroopers showed no hesitation towards the mission.

“This mission really jump started the paratroopers,” said Cox. “You can just see the morale soaring!”

“These guys are professional and motivated paratroopers and missions like this one is what they all live for,” Cox added.

“This was a successful mission,” said 1st Lt. Dustin Anderson, executive officer for Company A and native of Murfreesboro, Tenn. “And any time we bring every Paratrooper back safe and sound, the mission is always a success.”

The bottom line is that everyone was safe and six insurgents were detained, Cox said.



Sgt. Marcus Butler

Paratroopers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Regiment and Iraqi army soldiers wait to load onto a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter June 4 at a landing zone on FOB Iskandariyah, Iraq.

Eye doctors help Soldiers stay focused in Kalsu

Story by Maj. Eric Verzola

4th BCT (ABN), 25th Inf. Div. Public Affairs

KALSU, Iraq — The U.S. Army is the only service in Iraq that deploys medical eye specialists, and a team of two treated 105 Coalition Forces during a recent trip to Kalsu.

There are 10 optometrists and two eye surgeons in Iraq who travel from Camp Ad-der, Talil, Iraq, throughout theater to help Soldiers maintain or improve their sight.

The two-man team from the 82nd Airborne Division's Sustainment Brigade visited Forward Operating Base Kalsu for three and a half days last week to provide services for Coalitions Forces from Baghdad to north of Kuwait.

Maj. James Truong, the chief optometrist in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Sust. Bde., and Staff Sgt. Mark Maczuga, originally from Chicago, Ill., examined patients who needed glasses or had problems with their eyes.

Truong received his medical degree from the Southern California College of Optometry and his Bachelor of Science de-

gree in neuro-psychology from University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

“We go out about every three weeks to surrounding camps and FOBs to help people see better,” said Truong, a Boston, Mass., native. “This (tour in Iraq) has been an excellent experience; we have been able to help not only American Soldiers, but many of the coalition troops from Poland, El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Britain, and Australia.”

Truong knows that examining the eyes is important because it can signal problems in other parts of the body.

“We have been able to catch tumors, multiple sclerosis, eye diseases, diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. You can literally ‘see’ in a patient’s eyes when he or she has had one too many cheeseburgers and fries,” he said.

The examination was a first for many of the troops the team saw.

“For many of the coalition troops not from the United States, the eye examination we administer was the first time in their lives that their eyes had been looked at, and when they put on glasses for the first time it is almost a miraculous event. They can’t

believe they can see so much more clearly with the aid of glasses,” said Truong.

Truong and Maczuga are both bilingual, which aided in their ability to help the Polish and El Salvadoran soldiers see more

quickly. Truong speaks some Spanish, while Maczuga speaks Polish.

“I have really enjoyed helping soldiers to see better,” Maczuga said.



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Mark Maczuga, an optometry sergeant from 82nd Abn. Div., examines the eyes of Spc. Richard “Dick” Herold, a Paratrooper with 725th Brigade Support Battalion at FOB Kalsu, June 7.



Courtesy photo

Paratroopers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division pose for a picture to show off their new company t-shirts purchased by a donation from Mark Thompson, a native of Cape Cod, Mass.

Paratroopers surprised by donation from stranger

Story by Spc. Juliana Morrison
4th BCT (ABN), 25th Inf. Div. Public Affairs

KALSU, Iraq –Paratroopers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division received a special gift from a complete stranger.

Mark Thompson, a civilian from Cape Cod, Mass., generously donated \$5,000 to the Paratroopers after reading an article published in ‘The Cape Cod Times’.

The article focused on Nancy Allen, a 5th-grade teacher at Horace Mann Charter, whose son, Sgt. Matthew Allen, is deployed in Iraq with the battalion.

“This gift was an unexpected surprise, especially coming from a total stranger in a small town like Cape Cod where there isn’t much military life,” Allen said.

Thompson decided he wanted to do something for Soldiers in Iraq and saw Nancy as a link. He contacted her immediately and set up a fund for the donation.

Allen and the HHC 1st Sgt. Terwan Crawley put their heads together and decided how the money should be spent.

“We decided to get company T-shirts made because it’s something all of our troopers can use,” said Crawley.

Allen came up with a logo to go on the shirts and Crawley found someone to do the embroidery.

A friend of Crawley’s, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Cravis Taybron, who owns Taybron’s Sweaters Unlimited in Fayetteville, N.C. Taybron was more than happy to make a deal and do the embroidery for the T-shirts.

“It does great things for Paratroopers’ morale when the American people take the time to do something like this for us,” said Crawley.

In an effort to say thank you, Paratroopers in HHC came together and took a company picture with the shirts to show their gratitude.

Spc. Stephanie Colomer says she is touched someone would take the time to be so generous.

“It makes me feel like people actually care about us, not many people would take the time to do something like that,” said Colomer.

With the money left over from the donation, the company purchased two X-Boxes for Soldiers to enjoy in their free time.

Along with sending the company picture to Thompson, HHC is providing an American flag that was flown over Forward Operating Base Kalsu.

Crawley is reminded of the act of kindness every time he sees the shirt.

“We’re so grateful for Mr. Thompson and his gesture, and now when we see our company T-shirt we’ll know it came from an act of kindness.”

Joint Operation Ardennes detains 2 in Muwayllihah

4th BCT (ABN), 25th Inf. Div. Public Affairs

KALSU, Iraq – Iraqi Security Forces and Fort Richardson Paratroopers conducted a joint raid in Muwayllihah, Iraq, to deny insurgents refuge and prevent them from emplacing improvised explosive devices.

Company C, 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division and ISF detained two suspected insurgents during the operation dubbed Joint Operation Ardennes.

“Operation Ardennes was an excellent starting point

for future joint operations with 2nd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Security Forces,” said Staff Sergeant Clifton Talley, the fire support noncommissioned officer for Co. C, from Cookeville, Tenn. “Working with this platoon was a great experience for Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces alike.”

Operation Ardennes yielded two suspected insurgents wanted for their potential involvement in targeting Iraqi and Coalition Forces with improvised explosive devices and for their involvement in sectarian violence. The two individuals are currently being held for further questioning.

“Operation Ardennes was a great starting point for future joint operations with 2nd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Security Forces.”

STAFF SGT. CLIFTON TALLEY
C Co., 3-509TH PIR FIRE SUPPORT NCO



Courtesy photo

Capt. Se Young Um, a Company C, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion doctor, checks a child's throat for swelling June 11 at the free health clinic in Al Kansa, Iraq.

203rd BSB, 97th CAB hold free clinic, assess health of people

By Sgt. Natalie Rostek
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – More than 100 Iraqis were seen during a two-day health clinic held by the 203rd Brigade Support Battalion and the 97th Civil Affairs Battalion June 10-11.

Citizens from the towns of Saba Nissan and Al Kansa, two towns of the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team's area of operation, were treated at a traveling clinic where U.S. medics provided medical care. The Soldiers treated almost every medical problem with the exception of dental issues.

A separate operation incorporating a dentist is expected in the near future, according to Capt. Kirk Reed, 38, from Opelousas, La., commander of Company C, 203rd BSB.

"The medical operation we did, we call it 'tailgate medicine.' It's like a sick call," Reed explained. "We can't do thorough assessments, but we will help out where we can. We also want to gain the confidence of the Iraqi people."

The main objective of the medical operation was for the 97th CAB to conduct an assessment of the villages, Reed stated.

"We find what the needs are, whether it is water, medical attention or electricity," said a Company A, 97th CAB medic known as Staff Sgt. Dhanni by the locals. "We try to address the basic needs of the people in the area."

The medics saw a variety of maladies ranging from deformities to burns and rashes.

Having female Soldiers participate in the event made the women of the village more receptive to visiting to the clinic, said Staff Sgt. Kristine Sutton, from Cochran, Pa., a medic with Company C, 203rd BSB. Sutton was one of two female medics conducting the clinic.

"They would bring their babies to us," she said. "The more we talked to the kids, the more the women would start talking, telling us issues they were having. They had to trust us with their children and when they did, they were more open to be seen."

The medics saw about 60 patients the first day in Saba

Nissan and between 75 to 100 patients the second day in Al Kansa, Reed said. There were some citizens the medics could not help due to the severity of their illness.

Although Sutton has been to Iraq on a previous deployment, this was a new experience for her.

"It gave me a different view of Iraq," Sutton said. "I never got a chance to work with the Iraqi people before on such a personal level like this."

The Soldiers did a good thing, according to Reed.

"We were able to give the (civil affairs) guys the opportunity to do their jobs," said Reed, "and the Iraqi people we saw knew we were there to help out."



Courtesy photo

A medic with the 97th CAB, known as Staff Sgt. Dhanni by the Iraqis, listens to an elderly patient's chest at the free health clinic.

Soldier follows grandfather's footsteps in combat

Story and photo by Spc. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Following in your parents footsteps takes on new meaning for a 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team Soldier.

Pfc. Stephanie McCulley, a combat medic with 3rd HBCT, from Uniontown, Pa., followed the steps of her grandfather, who raised her. They both served in the Army. They both served in combat, and they both earned a Bronze Star Medal as a private first class.

"My grandfather raised me," said McCulley. "He was more of a dad than a grandfather. I lived with him and my grandmother from the age of 2 until I graduated high school."

Ronald Jobses instilled a strong sense of patriotism in McCulley at a young age.

"He would always put up a flag for my grandmother on her birthday because it was the same day as Flag Day," said McCulley. "I remember that he fell and broke some ribs twice, but he still did it. It was very important to him."

The man who McCulley affectionately called "Pap Pap" is much more than a patriotic father figure, however.

During World War II, Jobses fought with the 398th Infantry Division in France. From January 1945 to March 1945, Jobses routinely volunteered for dangerous night patrols to hinder the Nazi defensive preparations in his sector. Jobses went out an average of three nights a week for three months. His service and commitment did not go unnoticed by his superiors. As a private first class, Jobses was awarded the Bronze Star for his exemplary performance in Eastern France.

"I didn't even know I had been awarded the thing until I re-enlisted for my second tour," said Jobses. "We didn't have a formation or anything like that. We just did our duty as best we could. Every patrol was pretty much the same. I don't recall any one time that I earned it, but they gave it to me."

Sixty-two years Jobses' granddaughter would earn the same award for her service in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For McCulley, receiving the same award as her grandfather was a special moment.

"I think it is interesting that we both received our awards as privates first class," said McCulley. "Col. (Wayne) Grigsby told me my grandfather would be proud after he pinned it on me. I couldn't help but smile after that."

While on a combat patrol with her platoon, the lead convoy vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device. McCulley reacted instantaneously.

Leaving the safety of her humvee, she ran through the thick smoke with her section sergeant, Staff Sgt. Michael Henderson, from Vidor, Texas, to the disabled.

"I felt the IED before I heard it," explained McCulley. "They train us to wait and let Soldier's bring the casualties to us, but I knew if anyone was alive in that truck; they were barely alive. I didn't have time to wait. I didn't feel much at the time. I just hopped out

See MEDIC, page 9

MEDIC, from page 8

of our truck and ran to the truck.”

Henderson was not surprised to make it to the vehicle with McCulley by his side.

“She did what she was trained to do and then some,” said Henderson. “I knew she wouldn’t stay in the truck. That’s just the type of Soldier she is.”

Two of the three Soldiers in the vehicle were dead.

Henderson and McCulley quickly freed the third Soldier from the wreckage and began stabilizing Soldier.

“It’s important to remember that neither of them knew what was on the other side of that cloud,” said Capt. Steven Hemman, their team leader in the 3rd HBCT, from St. Louis. “Both of them could have run into small-arms fire or a secondary IED, but they didn’t think about that. Their only thought was getting to that vehicle and taking care of their battle buddies. I think that says something about them both.”

Hemman, who was there and nominated both Soldiers for the Bronze Star, was impressed with McCulley’s performance.

“I can’t say enough about how she performed,” he said. “I know without a doubt that if she had not performed how she did we would have lost three Soldiers that day. We were all scared. It is how your body responds to a stressful situation, but she held it together and did her job. She did what she was trained to do. Being brave isn’t about not being scared. It’s about controlling the fear you do have and performing through it. She did exactly that.”

The qualities Henderson and Hemman admire about their combat medic were instilled in her at a young age.

“All of my family is military,” explained McCulley. “I was 3 or 4 when my grandfather taught me the pledge of allegiance. We said it every morning. He is very patriotic and loves his country. I loved to hear his war stories growing up. He never mentioned that he had won an award, though.”

But McCulley always knew he was a hero.

Jobs’ military awards were discovered by his family in January. He downplayed them, but his granddaughter is very proud of him.

“He is very humble about it,” she explained. “He didn’t join the Army to win awards. He did it because

he loved his country. He was 16 when he volunteered to become an infantryman. He lied about his age to join the Army and do what he thought was right. I think that says a lot about him.”

Jobs is equally as proud of his granddaughter.

“I wasn’t thrilled when she joined the Army,” he admits. “She had a family, and I wanted her to be safe, but I’ve always been proud of her. I knew she would do well. She was always smart.”

McCulley’s superiors believe her work ethic plays just as big a role in her success as her intelligence.

“I think McCulley has always pushed herself to be the best medic she could

be,” explained Hemman. “She

volunteered to go to the surgeon’s course at Fort Sam Houston a

week before we

deployed. That’s

time she could

have spent with

her family, but

she wanted to

be prepared

for this de-

ployment.

The fact that she volunteered for extra training says a lot about her.”

“Her husband had to pack her bags for her,” said Henderson. “She literally got off one plane and got on to another.

After the incident, she was offered another position that would have kept her on FOB Hammer.

“She refused,” laughed Henderson. “She said if her team was going outside the gate, so was she. She wasn’t going to leave us.”

Hemman is glad she didn’t.

“I think she is the best combat medic in the 3rd HBCT,” said Hemman. “I’m glad she’s with us. She is an important part of our team.”



Spc. Ben Hutto

Pfc. Stephanie McCulley, a combat medic with the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 25, from Uniontown, Pa., checks her medical supply bag before a mission at Forward Operating Base Hammer June 9.

Chaplain fishes for ways to improve morale

Story by Spc. Ben Hutto

3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – In the bible, Jesus fed multitudes with one fish. A 203rd Brigade Support Battalion chaplain is hoping fish will satisfy the appetites of some Fort Benning, Ga., Soldiers.

Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Swartz, from Winston-Salem, N.C., and an avid fisherman, has been working to build a fish pond on Forward Operating Base Hammer for the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team Soldiers.

Swartz, who wants to do his part in increasing morale, has transferred approximately 30 fish from the canals outside FOB Hammer to a raw water pond inside the wire since May 26 using a fishing net he made from supplies donated to him by the 203rd BSB Soldiers.

Bernie Hoffinger, a water well driller for Kellog Brown

and Root and a San Diego native, has been one of the people helping Swartz to create the pond.

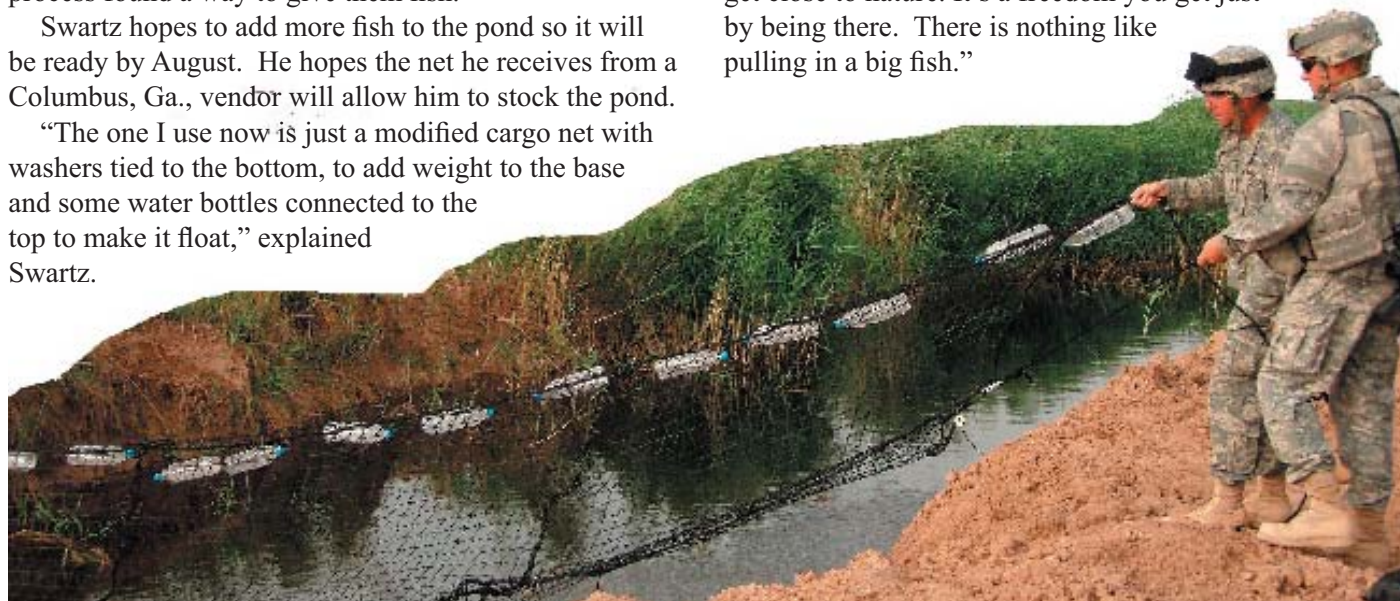
“I can’t think of a better way to spend my time,” said Hoffinger. “Soldiers are the whole reason I came out here. I wanted to make sure they had water and in the process found a way to give them fish.”

Swartz hopes to add more fish to the pond so it will be ready by August. He hopes the net he receives from a Columbus, Ga., vendor will allow him to stock the pond.

“The one I use now is just a modified cargo net with washers tied to the bottom, to add weight to the base and some water bottles connected to the top to make it float,” explained Swartz.

Swartz thinks the pond will provide the Soldiers a place to relax.

“Just being next to the water and having a place to cast and retrieve, will really give Soldiers an avenue to unwind,” said Swartz. “Fishing gives Soldiers a way to get close to nature. It’s a freedom you get just by being there. There is nothing like pulling in a big fish.”



Spc. Ben Hutto

Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Swartz, the 203rd Brigade Support Battalion chaplain, and Spc. Jesse Evans, Company B, 203rd BSB, cast Swartz’s homemade fishing net across a canal.

Sexual assault hurts Soldiers at every level

Story by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Task Force Marne Public Affairs

A person who survives a sexual assault can have long lasting psychological and emotional trauma. The results of an attack can cast a dark ominous cloud over the otherwise sterling image of a unit.

That is why Task Force Marne leaders enforce strong preventative approaches to combat sexual assault.

Sgt. 1st Class Delanor Nurse, equal opportunity noncommissioned officer in charge and 3ID's sexual assault response coordinator, said that TF leaders encourage TF members to have battle buddies when they are traveling.

Nurse also said that there have been informative news articles published in the Dog Face Daily and a public service announcement playing in the TF Marne dining facility.

As 3ID's SARC, Nurse said he also provides sexual assault prevention training where TF members learn about the two methods of reporting sexual assault.

"The preferred method would be unrestricted because with unrestricted there's a full investigation and the alleged perpetrator, if it's substantiated, would be punished under the (Uniform Code of Military Justice)," said Nurse.

The first kind of reporting is unrestricted and it is for victims of sexual assault who desire medical treatment, counseling and an official investigation of the crime.

Nurse said the second kind of reporting is called restricted and is least favorable because the alleged perpetrator is never placed under investigation.

Nurse said that without unrestricted reporting a perpetrator is free to continue assaulting other people, but the choice is up to the victims who have the option of choosing which type of reporting is best for them.

For reporting Sexual Assault call the Multinational Division Center Sexual Assault Hotline at 9*790-194-1974.

RESTRICTED REPORTING

- ◆ Restricted reporting is for victims who wish to confidentially disclose the crime, receive medical treatment and counseling without triggering the official investigative process.
- ◆ Sexual assault victims who chose restricted can report the assault to a SARC, a victim advocate healthcare provider or chaplain.
- ◆ When notified, the SARC will immediately assign a VA who will explain the differences between restricted and unrestricted reporting.
- ◆ Healthcare providers, if notified first, begin the appropriate care and treatment and report the sexual assault to the SARC in lieu of reporting the assault to law enforcement agents or the victim's command.
- ◆ At the victim's request a trained healthcare provider may conduct a sexual assault forensic examination which may include the collection of evidence.

UNRESTRICTED REPORTING

- ◆ When selecting unrestricted reporting, a person should use current reporting channels, e.g. chain of command, law enforcement, report the incident to the SARC or request healthcare providers to notify law enforcement.
- ◆ Upon notification of a reported sexual assault, the SARC will immediately assign a victim advocate.
- ◆ At the victim's request, the healthcare provider shall conduct a sexual assault forensic examination.
- ◆ Details regarding the incident are limited to those personnel who have a legitimate need to know.
- ◆ Unrestricted reporting is for victims of sexual assault who want medical treatment, counseling and an official investigation of the crime.

For more information call 9*790-194-1974.

Neglect highest complaint to IG office, commanders held liable for subordinates' failure to support family members

Sgt. 1st Class Rietta Owens

Inspector General

Soldiers not providing for thier family members continue to be the number one request for assistance at Inspector General's office staff throughout the Army.

The Army's regulation, AR 608-99 titled, Family Support, Child Custody, and Paternity sets forth the Department of the Army policy, responsibilities and procedures on financial support for family members, child custody and visitation, paternity and compliance with court orders regarding these and related matters.

The Army recognizes the transient nature of military duty. However, the regulation prohibits the use of a Soldier's military status or assignment as a reason to deny financial support to family members.

Soldiers must continue to support their family members as long as there is a legal obligation by marriage or custody, until there is a valid court order, written agreement, or proper relief

from the chain of command as outlined in the policy.

Commanders must inform Soldiers that failure to provide financial support to family members on a monthly basis is a violation of regulation and is punishable under UCMJ.

In accordance with AR 608-99, personnel who fail to comply with paragraph 2-5 and 2-11, which are punitive in nature and are fully effective at all times, are subject to punishment under the UCMJ as well as to adverse administrative action and other adverse action authorized by applicable sections of the United States Code or federal regulations. A violation of either is separately punishable as a violation of a lawful general regulation under Article 92, UCMJ even in absence of a prior complaint from a family member or counseling from the commander.

A Soldier's obligation to provide financial support to family members under this regulation is not contingent upon whether the Soldier is entitled to, or receiving, any form of basic allow-

ance for housing. Therefore, it is imperative that all Soldiers understand their responsibilities under this regulation, which includes but are not limited to:

A Soldier is required to provide financial support to family members. This obligation is frequently complicated when the Soldier is geographically separated from the family. In the majority of these situations, the Soldier and the family can manage the financial support without command involvement. These arrangements may include joint checking accounts or voluntary allotments to the family as appropriate.

Soldiers will comply with the financial support provisions of court orders arising from paternity. If there is a court order establishing paternity, but not directing financial support, the Soldier will provide support as required by paragraph 2-6 of AR 608-99.

Soldiers must provide adequate financial support to their family members and comply with all court orders.

Commanders have the responsibility to ensure that Soldiers are meeting

their obligations as stated in AR 608-99 by periodically counseling Soldiers on their financial support obligations and promptly investigating and replying to all requests for assistance by family members who may be entitled to support. They will ensure that this regulation is enforced in a timely and effective manner by providing a written reply to an inquiry no later than 14 days after receipt of the assistance request from the IG office except those required to be signed by the battalion commander.

Commanders are responsible for the following when handling non-support issue of their Soldiers:

Inform Soldier's that failure to provide financial support to family members on a monthly or otherwise continuous basis is a violation of this lawful general regulation and is punishable under the UCMJ.

Respond to all requests for assistance from government officials based on court orders, and all other inquiries

See **NONSUPPORT**, page 12



Pfc. Robert H. Baumgartner

Maj. Brian Krakover, deputy surgeon of the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, intubates an Iraqi policeman wounded in a bomb attack in Ramadi.

Combat medics work at Baghdad ER

Pfc. Robert H. Baumgartner
82nd SB Public Affairs Office

BAGHDAD – A busy emergency room has been playing host to medics from the 82nd Sustainment Brigade the past few months, affording the young care providers a wealth of invaluable experiences and confidence.

The 28th Combat Support Hospital, known as the “Baghdad ER,” is located in the heart of the teeming International Zone.

“It is designed to rapidly treat and perform damage control surgery. Basically, to stop major organ bleeding,” said U.S. Army Maj. Brian Krakover, deputy surgeon of the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, and one of the trauma surgeons working at the CSH.

The hospital’s location, combined with a roster of Army doctors that includes trauma, orthopedic, and general surgeons, make it the destination for nearly 14,000 traumatic injury patients a year. In other words, the perfect place for junior 82nd SB medics to get the necessary experience to make them a well-rounded care provider, said Krakover.

“In the 82nd Sustainment Brigade our business is pushing convoys on the roads. The enemy has decided to fight us there with improvised explosive devices. Nowhere in Iraq are you seeing more IEDs than in the Baghdad area,” Krakover said.

Why send field medics to this hospital?

Well, if you want to learn how to take care of (critical) injuries, you have to go where the injuries are happening,” Krakover continued.

Staff Sgt. Carlington Hewitt, a medic and the platoon sergeant for the medical platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 82nd Sustainment Brigade is one of the last to do the 30-day rotation. He has seen the difference in his young Soldiers who complete the rotation.

“For a lot of my Soldiers, this is their first duty assignment. Here, they get a chance to apply what they’ve learned and when they leave the

hospital, they come away with a lot more confidence,” Hewitt said.

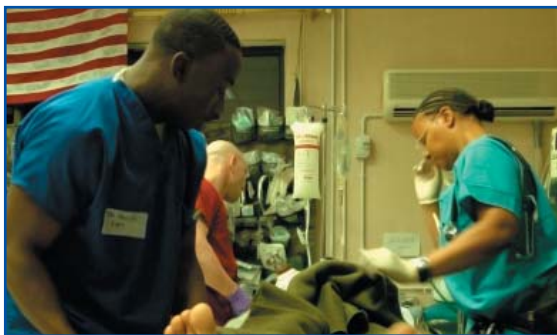
For Hewitt, the medics who are assigned to the 28th CSH make the perfect coworkers and trainers for both himself and his Soldiers.

“I have had a chance to have one-on-one discussions with the other medics here, and they are just on it, I mean pinpoint. They work great as a team, they know each other’s jobs ... it’s just amazing to watch them and even more amazing to pick up and integrate into this system,” Hewitt said.

Fortunately, the 82nd SB medics do not get a chance to hone their skills while at their home base Camp Adder.

“Sitting around here, we really don’t get a chance to do our jobs. This is a good thing, because it means if we are not doing our jobs than people aren’t getting hurt. But things will happen, especially in war, so we want to be as ready and experienced as possible when things go downhill,” said Pfc. Nichole Conard, a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 82nd SB who completed the one month rotation prior to Hewitt’s arrival.

“In that respect, the 28th CSH is a medic’s paradise,” Conard said.



Pfc. Robert H. Baumgartner

Staff Sgt. Carlington Hewitt, medic and platoon sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 82nd Sustainment Brigade helps treat a victim of an IED.



THIS WEEK IN MARNE HISTORY

This Week in Marne History spotlights a special letter written in thanks to the Third Infantry Division. In June 1994 the following (letter) was sent to division headquarters in Germany concerning events from September 1944. It came from Michel Marlin who had a life altering encounter with Marne Soldiers as a boy.

A letter from Besançon

In Besançon [, France] on September 7th 1944, after four long bleak years, we had been waiting with hope and some anxiety for our liberation. I was eleven-years-old then, after a night of violent shooting, I [was] present at your arrival in a north-western district of Besançon. [There were] rows of Soldiers on either side of the street holding their guns ready to shoot. I shook a Soldier’s hand warmly. I remember a radiant smile, a double helmet slanting to the right ... boots and an identity tag strung to a row of little beads.

An hour later the vehicles arrived. My father took [a snapshot] of the M-10 tank-destroyer near Vauban barracks at which it had been shooting. I was near a Dodge ambulance whose guys offered me some white coffee in a tin mug and some chocolate. At that very moment a German mortar shell burst in the tree above us. Panic stricken I started running, but an ambulance-man struck me to the ground, which prevented my being hit by the other five shells that fell in the following moments.

I couldn’t thank my savior. A hundred yards away, my father was taking a picture of two Soldiers in a jeep. The shellbursts were the cause of [the] downward angel of the shot. The plate number shows it was a jeep of Company H, 2nd Battalion, 7th Regiment. I would be very happy to return the mug ... filled with champagne to the Soldier who offered it to me!

In order to thank you all, I put an ad in the papers asking the people of Besançon for their pictures of that time. I had many responses. I reproduced the photos and they are placarded in the hotel. If you recognize yourself or a friend, just tell me and I’ll try to find out your French friends of the time.

I offer a series of those pictures to your association and to the HQ of the 3rd in Wurtzburg. All the people who contacted me asked to say how grateful they are to you.



Reenlistment bonus means more cash for Soldiers

Spc. William Hatton
Task Force Marne PAO

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – Some Task Force Marne Soldiers have less than 30 days to earn up to \$33,000.

The enhanced enlistment program is a plan that offers Soldiers a flat-rate bonus depending on when they're estimated time of separation is and their specific military occupational skill.

The bonus is an attempt to simplify the current reenlistment program, which could be described as more of an algebra problem, said Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Raibon, the Multi-National Division - Center command career counselor.

Although the possibility for making a lot of money with this new bonus is big, the timeline for this bonus isn't quite as large, said Raibon, a native of Tyler, Texas.

"The program took effect on June 6th and will expire no later than July 6th," Raibon added. "With that said, it's important for Soldiers to jump on the new opportunity to receive this reenlistment bonus."

The new plan affects Soldiers who fit into one of the three reenlistment bonus zones, Raibon said.

The first is Zone A, which applies to Soldiers who have been in the Army 17 months to 6 years, said Master Sgt. James Nicolai, a career counselor with the 3rd Inf. Div. Retention Office. The second is Zone B which applies to Soldiers who have been in the Army for 6 to 10 years. The

last is Zone C, which applies to Soldiers who have been in for 10 to 14 years, he added.

As an example, a sergeant can make anywhere from \$8,000 to \$29,500 depending if his estimated time of separation is before Oct. 1, the length of his reenlistment and what zone he's in.

After Oct. 1, the sergeant's possibilities for a bonus decline depending again on how many years he reenlists and what zone he's in.

This new bonus plan is based on military specialties. But there is also a program for deployed Soldiers. This program offers a bonus to troops in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, Nicolai said.

"You can't get this back in the states," Nicolai said.

"Without the men and women that we have, we can't do what we do, and it's those people that we want to keep," Raibon said.

Professionals in our society look up to the things Soldiers do every day, Raibon said. "Doctors and lawyers only wish that they can do what we do."

"It really takes a special person to be in the Army," Raibon added.

For more information on current and upcoming programs in retention, Soldiers can visit their career counselor. Soldiers can also contact the 3rd Inf. Div., reenlistment office at DSN (318) 822-7425.

SOLDIERS THAT ETS AFTER 1 OCTOBER 2007 AND POSSESS A CRITICAL SKILL LISTED						
ZONE A						
AOS is	Over 1 Year	Over 2 Years	Over 3 Years	Over 4 Years	Over 5 Years	
PFC	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,500	\$12,500	\$15,000	
SPC	\$5,500	\$8,500	\$11,000	\$13,500	\$16,500	
SGT	\$6,000	\$9,000	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$18,000	
SSG	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$13,500	\$17,000	\$20,000	
ZONE B						
AOS is	Over 1 Year	Over 2 Years	Over 3 Years	Over 4 Years	Over 5 Years	
PFC	\$5,500	\$8,000	\$11,000	\$13,000	\$16,000	
SPC	\$6,500	\$9,500	\$13,000	\$16,000	\$19,000	
SGT	\$7,000	\$11,500	\$15,500	\$19,000	\$23,000	
SSG	\$8,500	\$12,500	\$17,000	\$21,000	\$25,000	
ZONE C						
AOS is	Over 1 Year	Over 2 Years	Over 3 Years	Over 4 Years	Over 5 Years	
PFC	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$9,000	
SPC	\$3,500	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$9,000	\$10,500	
SGT	\$4,500	\$7,000	\$9,000	\$11,000	\$13,500	
SSG	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,500	\$12,500	\$15,000	

AOS: ADDITIONAL OBLIGATED SERVICE

SOLDIERS THAT ETS PRIOR 1 OCTOBER 2007 AND POSSESS A CRITICAL SKILL LISTED						
ZONE A						
AOS is	Over 1 Year	Over 2 Years	Over 3 Years	Over 4 Years	Over 5 Years	
PFC	\$6,500	\$10,000	\$13,500	\$16,500	\$20,000	
SPC	\$7,500	\$11,000	\$14,500	\$18,000	\$21,500	
SGT	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$23,500	
SSG	\$9,000	\$13,500	\$18,000	\$22,000	\$26,500	
ZONE B						
AOS is	Over 1 Year	Over 2 Years	Over 3 Years	Over 4 Years	Over 5 Years	
PFC	\$6,500	\$10,000	\$13,500	\$16,000	\$19,500	
SPC	\$8,000	\$11,500	\$15,500	\$19,500	\$23,500	
SGT	\$9,500	\$14,000	\$19,000	\$23,000	\$28,000	
SSG	\$10,500	\$15,500	\$20,500	\$25,500	\$31,000	
ZONE C						
AOS is	Over 1 Year	Over 2 Years	Over 3 Years	Over 4 Years	Over 5 Years	
PFC	\$6,500	\$10,000	\$13,000	\$16,000	\$19,500	
SPC	\$8,000	\$11,500	\$15,500	\$19,500	\$23,500	
SGT	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$24,500	\$29,500	
SSG	\$11,000	\$17,000	\$22,500	\$28,000	\$33,500	

AOS: ADDITIONAL OBLIGATED SERVICE

Hand-to-hand training adds tool for Soldiers survival, defense

COMBATIVES, from page 1

Jones said. Students only get the basic and core techniques.

"One of the most challenging parts of the course that I have is probably getting out of the different holds and chokes," said Pfc. James Carroll, a Canton, Ohio, native and member of HHOC, STB, 3rd Inf. Div.

"The techniques that are being taught in the class are very helpful and are helping me get out of the different positions," Carroll added.

Most men tend to think that the best way to fight someone is to overpower their opponent with muscles, Jones said. "We try to teach Soldiers to rely more on technique and not muscle."

That was hardest thing about combatives for Sgt. Jeffery Barnes, with HHOC, STB, 3rd Inf. Div. However, using technique over muscle reserves some of your energy, he added.

"It's a good workout and you learn the knowledge of how to fight without wearing yourself out," Barnes said.

One of the best ways for Soldiers to learn the different moves and perfect them is by repetition, Carroll said. "Repetition is what made it easy for me to learn."

As Soldiers continue to learn the techniques and perform them, the course will be successful, Jones said.

"One of the biggest ways I see success in the class is when the students come in at the beginning of the class and see all the students afraid to really get into it," Jones said. "As the course continues you can really see the difference. Students stop being so timid and actually learn the techniques."

"It's good knowledge," Barnes said, "it will save you some day. It's always good to know how to defend yourself."

The idea is that as Soldiers come to the combatives course and learn the different methods, they will be able to go back to their units and teach and show fellow Soldiers the same moves, Jones said.

"There are some people that can and do, and some people can't and don't," Jones said. "All the Soldiers that we have come through the class are truly doers."

NONSUPPORT, from page 10

court orders, and all other inquiries received under this regulation.

Ensure that Soldiers are thoroughly familiar with the provisions of this regulation and established procedures to ensure compliance.

Counsel Soldiers and take other actions, as appropriate, in response to all inquiries received under this regulation.

Forward, with recommendation, to the battalion commander any request by a Soldier to be released from a specific provision of this regulation.

Take other actions, as appropriate, in enforcing the provisions of this regulation.

Previously, the Inspector General considered nonsupport issues as only assistance. Technically, nonsupport could be considered an allegation; with substantiated allegations added to the IG database. In a recent change, an investigative inquiry may be initiated with allegations against the Soldier for violation of Article 90, Willfully disobeying superior commissioned officer and/or Article 92, Failure to obey order or regulation. Results of investigative inquiries are entered into the IG database and are provided to DA boards. Commanders who fail to properly address issues of nonsupport may have allegations directed against them as well.

For more information on a Soldier's family support obligation, contact your local servicing SJA or TFM Inspector General.

FREEDOM REPORT

Telling the Task Force Marne story
One Soldier at a time...

Every friday on
DVIDSHUB.net under audio/news cast
or on the TF Marne SIPR under PAO Link