

# The North Marne Bulletin



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Serving Task Force Marne

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## Cav. Soldiers compete to be best

By Staff Sgt. Jason Douglas  
2BCT, 1st Cav. Div PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Douglas, 2BCT, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

*Specialist James Shindo a Buena Park, Calif., native and petroleum supply specialist with 15th BSB, 2BCT, 1st Cav. Div., displays his knowledge of the .50 Caliber Machine Gun during a competition for the brigade's NCO and Soldier of the year competition, Nov. 6, on FOB Warrior. Specialist Shindo took earned the title "Soldier of the Year."*

A day in what took almost a year in the making, Noncommissioned officers and Soldiers competed to take home the title of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division NCO and Soldier of the Year, Nov. 6.

The five competitors, who won NCO and Soldier of the Quarter competitions during the year put their skills to the test during a day of grueling competition.

The competition began with a road march in full gear to a firing range, where Soldiers performed reflexive fire, which involved firing weapons from different positions while walking.

Following the range, Soldiers were rotated through a round-robin of events to test their knowledge on automatic weapons, communications equipment, casualty treatment and evacuation, and searching detainees.

After a short break, the final portion of the competition was held. The ever nerve-racking board appearance had NCOs answering a myriad of questions on military knowledge, from basic rifle marksmanship, troop leading procedures, and first aid to U.S. government history.

After tallying the scores the winners were announced.

Sergeant Randall Williams, a Round Rock, Texas, native and wheeled **See Competition, Page 3**

## Today, all who served receive honors, recognition

### Special to North Marne Bulletin

Many Americans mistakenly believe that Veterans Day is the day America sets aside to honor American military personnel who died in battle or as a re-

sult of wounds sustained from combat.

That's not quite true. Memorial Day is the day set aside to honor America's war dead. Veterans Day, on the other hand, honors ALL American Veterans, both living and dead. In fact, Veterans

Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for dedicated and loyal service to their country. November 11 of each year is the day veterans are honored for the sacrifices they have made to keep the country free.

# Naughty by Nature rocks COB Speicher

By Sgt. Johnathon Jobson  
TFM PAO

Servicemembers stationed at Contingency Operation Base Speicher were treated to a night of entertainment by DJ Skribble and the hip-hop group Naughty by Nature, Nov. 8. The show was put on by the USO and was free to all.

The entertainers arrived about seven hours prior to the show and were given a tour of the Special Forces compound at COB Speicher. Because the Special Forces Soldiers were preparing for a mission the next day, Naughty by Nature decided to do a small impromptu show for them at the end of the tour. Using a cell phone to play the music tracks the artists

performed their hit songs "O.P.P." and "Hip Hop Hooray."

Every chance they got, the artists were posing for pictures with Soldiers and thanking them for their service.

They felt it was more of an honor for them to be able to perform for and support the Soldiers, than it was for the Soldiers to get to meet them and see the show.

"It's been a wonderful thing. We know how much the troops do for us and how much they put their lives on the line. We just wanted to do something to show our appreciation," said Anthony "Treach" Criss, the lead rapper for Naughty by Nature. "Coming out for the troops has been an experience that you couldn't pay for. You wouldn't ever think in your whole life

you would be out here having fun doing what you do, but being such a morale booster for the Soldiers because they are so far away from the regular world. For me it was an honor and a pleasure, words cannot express how good I feel about being a part of this."

After taking some time to rest and relax after the SF tour, it was time to start the real party. DJ Skribble warmed up the crowd with his own unique style of "scratching" and mixing before Naughty by Nature took the stage.

After singing many of their own hit songs, some of their new tracks, and a few popular song from other artists that were "mixed-up" by DJ Skribble and their own DJ, DJ Kay Gee, Naughty by Nature ended their show in a way true to their past. For the performance of the last song "Hip Hop Hooray" as many of the Servicemembers as would fit were invited on stage to assist with the performance and dance with the group.

After the show, the artists held a meet and greet session with all the fans in a Morale, and Welfare Recreation gym where all that wanted to could get photos with the artists and autographed copies of the promotional flyer from the show.

"It was great. It was a lot of fun, said Sgt. 1st Class Amanda Cox, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear operations NCO with 3rd Infantry Division. "It gave Soldiers a chance to relax and enjoy themselves." For the Servicemembers at COB Speicher the night was a chance to have some fun and enjoy performances by artists that some have been fans of since they were kids.



Photo by Sgt. Johnathon Jobson, TFM PAO

Soldiers from TFM pose with Anthony "Treach" Criss, DJ Skribble, Vin Rock and DJ Kay Gee after a USO concert. Treach, Vin Rock, and DJ Kay Gee, known collectively as Naughty by Nature, were invited by DJ Skribble to join him on USO tour in Kuwait and Iraq.

## Change is Coming

Beginning Friday the name of the *North Marne Bulletin* will change to *The North Star*. You can also expect to see more subtle changes, including a fifth page and the Marne Hero of the Day. Our goal is to bring you the latest news from around the Multi-National Division - North area,

and provide you with interesting facts and tips.

Also, remember your feedback is always welcomed. Send questions and comments to [mndnpao@3id.army.mil](mailto:mndnpao@3id.army.mil), and place *The North Star* in the subject line. If you know anyone who's not getting the newsletter let us know. We look forward to hearing from you.



# Navy EOD trains Iraqi forces to fight IEDs

By Spc. Michael Adams  
TFM PAO

An Oregon Native works with Iraqi Army bomb disposal units and Iraqi Police counter explosive teams. He teaches them tactics, techniques and procedures on how to defeat a network of people who place and build improvised explosive devices all across northern Iraq. The details of the training get as intricate as hair molecules at a post blast site.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Ryan Burton is the program manager for the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army Partnership in the Salah ad-Din province. He's assigned to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Mobile Unit 12, out of Virginia Beach, Va., which arrived in Iraq Oct. 30.

The unit is deployed as Task Force Troy – North, which provides Multi National Division- North with counter IED support.

Chief Petty Officer Burton is on his fourth deployment and has noticed a change in his mission from his previous deployments. Before, his mission was to diffuse IEDs directly. But now, he is here mostly to train Iraqis on how to complete counter-IED missions. He said he only takes part in missions, when the Iraqis request it.

"They are handling calls as we speak," he said. "We're just here to help improve their abilities. They



Courtesy Photo

**Chief Petty Officer Ryan Burton, middle with sunglasses, the program manager for the Iraqi Police And Iraqi Army Partnership, poses with Sailors from EOD, MU 12 and members of the IPCET and an AndrosHD-1 Robot, created to help counter IED threats.**

want to learn and they know what it is they need to do."

Since the outbreak of the conflict in Iraq, Chief Petty Officer Burton has noticed the Iraqi counter-IED forces have improved significantly.

"Every month, every week, more and more progress is being made," he said.

Even though many do not associate the Navy with deploying to a desert, their EOD forces operate in any setting around the world where they are needed, working with all branches of service including Army Special Forces, Navy SEALs and the Secret Service.

"The Navy is the full spectrum of counter IED operations," said Lt. Cmdr. Ford Ewaldsen, deputy commander of Task Force Troy- North.

He added that the Navy receives identical training as the Army, Air Force and Marines, but the Navy goes through an additional training for underwater demolition. It is through this training that the American military has learned a vast knowledge of counter-IED information.

This knowledge has helped Americans and now the servicemembers will use their knowledge to help the Iraqis secure their country.

## Continued from Competition, Page 1

vehicle mechanic with the 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd BCT, was named the Black Jack NCO of the Year.

Sergeant Williams, who serves in Iraq as a member of the Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team's personal security detachment, said he had been competing in different boards throughout the year, winning each one along the way to get this far.

He gave much of the credit to his platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Willie Martin, for much of his success.

"I had tremendous support from my NCO support channel in preparing me for this," Sgt. Williams said. "Winning

was definitely an honor, because I want to be an example to my Soldiers."

The most difficult portion of the competition for Sgt. Williams was the opening event, in which Soldiers had to run in full gear for a mile and were timed.

The brigade's Soldier of the Year title was bestowed upon Spc. James Shindo, a Buena Park, Calif., native and petroleum supply specialist with 15th BSB, who also serves as a member of Kirkuk's PRT PSD.

Specialist Shindo, who has been to several boards since May, said the previous board appearances prepared him for this day.

"I have been to five boards during this deployment," Spc. Shindo said. "But, the most difficult part of the board isn't performing the tasks or answering questions, it's the personal discipline to take the time to study."

Specialist Shindo also believes this is an important step to becoming an NCO.

"Hopefully, I can take what I've learned and will continue to learn during this process and apply it to the promotion board," Spc. Shindo said.

For Spc. Shindo, the competition wasn't easy, he said, but it reassured him he could do it. "I love the Army," he said.

## HEADLINE HIGHLIGHTS

### Man walks from Texas to Washington

*Associated Press*

ABERDEEN, Wash. - A man walking from Texas to his hometown in Washington state has had a cross to bear for months. James Strickland says he's been dragging a 12-foot cross from Longview, Texas, to his Aberdeen home since May.

The 39-year-old says he was praying about his troubled past when he received a message to start walking on a journey of renewal. He took along the cross, which rolls on wheels with his belongings tied near the bottom.

He expects to reach home Tuesday or Wednesday. Strickland says the trek has taken him through Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Utah and Idaho.

He says he hopes to reconcile with the mother of his two children. Aberdeen police Capt. John Green told KXRO-AM that Strickland also has several misdemeanor warrants to clear up.

### Wienermobile banned from Hawaii

*United Press International*

HAWAII- The Oscar Mayer Wienermobile should stay away from Hawaii because it violates a

law against vehicles used only for advertising, a beautification group says.

The Wienermobile, a bus in the shape of a hot dog on a bun, visited Hawaii from June 28 to July 19. An Oscar Mayer spokeswoman told the Honolulu Advertiser the bus and its crew had a "franktastic" time there.

But the Outer Circle, founded in 1912 and famous for winning a ban on billboards from the Territorial Legislature in 1927, is not happy. A spokesman said the group received six to 12 complaints from Oahu residents about the Wienermobile.

Oscar Mayer, based in Illinois, has six Wienermobiles on the road, touring the United States.

The activist admitted some buses and trucks in Hawaii may carry signs bigger than the Wienermobile.

"Unfortunately, those things aren't against the law, and this is," he said.

### Songs found to evoke specific memories

*newslite.tv*

KANSAS- Psychologists from Kansas State University gave a group of 18-20-year-olds a list of songs from five periods of their life, and asked them to consider

what memories they prompted, they were then played the same songs.

It had been expected that listening to the songs would cue a stronger memory but they found just reading the titles prompted the same reaction. 26 percent said Vanilla Ice's "Ice Ice Baby" cued a memory while 36 percent said the same of Coolio's "Gangsta's Paradise".

"It's autobiographical in that we remember events from a long time ago with strong emotion," said Richard Harris, professor of psychology at K-State. "These pop songs were played many times, so there's a lot of repeat presentation."

### Man using blowtorch to clean burns house

*Associated Press*

SARGENT, Ga.- Would-be cleaners take note: A blowtorch is not a good substitute for a broom. Coweta County authorities said Galen

Winchell set fire to his west Georgia home Wednesday as he cleaned cobwebs from exterior eaves with a blowtorch. Winchell noticed the blaze when he saw smoke pouring from the attic.

Coweta Fire Investigator James Gantt says the fire was contained to one part of the house, but the entire home had smoke and water damage. No one was hurt. No phone number was listed for Winchell.

#### THE

### North Marne Bulletin

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