

The North Star

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



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TF Marne captain says ISF has 'Bright' future

By Spc. Jared Sollars
145th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Captain David T. Bright, the Personal Security Detachment commander, for 3rd Division Special Troops Battalion, has been in the Army more than six years, and is on his third tour in Iraq.

On this deployment Capt. Bright commands 81 Soldiers. They provide security for Contingency Operating Base Speicher and also assist in building community relations with villages adjacent to the base.

"In my first tour, when the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police would come out with us, it was to see how things are done," said Capt. Bright, a third generation Soldier in his Family. "Now they have taken the lead and are better equipped with more personnel and equipment."

Captain Bright's unit conducts joint patrols in the Salah ad-Din area, and identifies potential projects to help improve the quality of life for the local residents. He said his main focus is relationship building.

"I want my Soldiers to be personable with the citizens when we go on patrols," said Bright. "By doing that small thing, we open a window of opportunity to further help Iraqis rebuild their country."

"In the short time we have been here, we have already shown them it's OK to come up to us and tell us what's going on. They're not afraid ... to talk to us."

Half of Capt. Bright's time in the military has been in Iraq, but he said he has no complaints. He's just following in his father and



Photos by Staff Sgt. Brian Allen, 145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Captain David T. Bright (right), of the PSD for DSTB, 3rd Inf. Div. and Pfc. Ford an interpreter, tours the Al Sakur neighborhood, north of Tikrit with an Iraqi Soldier. The group checked on micro-grant projects and water facilities.

grandfather's footsteps.

His grandfather was drafted and completed a three-year tour in the Korean War. His father, who spent 21 years in the Army, also deployed during the Gulf War and retired as a chief warrant officer three.

Also as a child he traveled from duty station to duty station with his Family.

"I didn't like traveling all the time growing up, but now I can't see my life any other way," said Capt. Bright. "I've been able to not just visit but also live in cities all over the U.S. and Europe and visit a score of other cities."

"Now I can't see myself not having a change of scenery every couple of years. I wouldn't change joining the

Sergeant John Oshon, a Soldier with the PSD, DSTB, 3rd Inf. Div., pulls security with an Iraqi Police officer.



Native-American Soldiers treasure past

Troops reveal storied history impacted their choice to serve

**By Spc. Jared Sollars
145th Mobile Public Affairs Det.**

They have been called the 'Vanishing Americans', but two Task Force Marne Soldiers say they are not just holding on to their history, but they are helping to create it.

Sergeant Albert Gentry and Spc. Drew Deck, both members of 264th

Combat Service and Support Battalion attached to 2025th Transportation Company, are both serving on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, and each brings a different perspective to his time here.

"I knew from when I was a little kid that I wanted to serve," said Sgt. Gentry, who has been working on a degree in history in between three deployments to Iraq. He first became interested in history at his great aunt's home in Tennessee Hills, where he said he would hunt for

arrowheads from skirmishes between the Cherokee and Iroquois tribes. He also mentioned that his great aunt still makes her own soap.

Sergeant Gentry's grandmother was a librarian and traced his Family's history back seven generations and found that his Family served in the Revolutionary and the Civil Wars.

A native of Georgiana, Ala., Sgt. Gentry said looking back is important, but not to point fingers but to learn

See History, Page 3

U.S., Iraqi forces celebrate Veterans Day

**By Spc. Daniel Nelson
145th Mobile Public Affairs Det.**

Brigadier General Tom Vandal, deputy commanding general (support), Multi-National Division-North, welcomed key leaders from both the Iraqi Army and the Kurdish Peshmerga forces from Mosul for a Veterans Day celebration, at Forward Operating Base Marez, Mosul, Nov. 11.

In attendance was Brig. Gen. Nassir Ahmad, 2nd Iraqi Army Division commander, along with fellow Iraqi Army leaders from throughout Ninewa province. There representing the Peshmerga was Maj. Gen. Delshad, of the Kurdish Peshmerga force, accompanied by his senior leaders from Iraq's northern Kurdish region.

Arab and Kurdish military leaders were able to come together in respect for all Veterans as well as to celebrate their own service.

The ceremony took place at the Derby landing zone, which is a memorial to honor Lt. Col. Garnet Derby, and his personal security detail, who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom last February. Additionally, the service was held on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month U.S. Eastern Standard Time, which recognizes the anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I in 1918. At the same moment, people all across America were taking time to pay tribute to all the Veterans, living and dead, for their service to their country.



Photo by Spc. Daniel Nelson, 145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Brigadier General Tom Vandal, deputy commanding general (Support), Multi-National Division-North (far left); Brig. Gen. Nassir Ahmad, 2nd Iraqi Army Division commander (left), and Maj. Gen. Delshad, of the Peshmerga forces (far right), join in a dinner with other U.S. and Iraqi leaders following a Veterans Day celebration Nov. 11, on Forward Operating Base, Marez, Mosul, Iraq.

"To all of the Veterans here, to those we fight alongside each day, and to the Veterans of every war on whose legacy we proudly uphold – the living, the missing, the departed – our nations have the deepest gratitude for their service and for their sacrifice," said Brig. Gen. Vandal during a speech he gave during the ceremony.

Brigadier General Vandal, Brig.

Gen. Nassir and Maj. Gen. Delshad laid a wreath at the base of a memorial rock at the LZ to honor the fallen U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers of this and previous wars.

Following the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Vandal along with his distinguished guests had dinner at Command Post-North, Task Force Marne.

HEY DOC!

Answers on important medical concerns



Stay healthy, Rock of the Marne!

By Ed Michaud

COL, MC

Doc of the Marne

Q: I heard someone was evacuated recently from MND-N for becoming HIV+ is this true?

A: Yes it is true. Both Soldiers and civilians will be evacuated from theater for contracting an infectious blood borne disease such as HIV or Hepatitis. You get these from other people by having unprotected sex with someone who is infected. This should not be happening with our Soldiers who are following General Order number one or who care about the morale of their fellow Soldiers and their families. If someone is having sex, they must absolutely protect themselves and their partners by insisting on the use of condoms which are available free issue at any aid station or at PX. People who do engage in sex with more than one person are by definition high risk for having an infection, and in turn passing the infection to their partners. Getting an STD, especially a viral infection, can cause a lifetime of pain and suffering for the person who gets the disease as well as their families. It is definitely not worth the plane ticket home, or trying to explain the premature redeployment. Remember that abstinence is the only 100 percent effective protection against STDs as well as fertility.

Q: I heard someone else was recently evacuated for getting Pregnant?

A: Yes it is true. Soldiers who become pregnant are non-deployable and will be sent home right away. Soldiers who engage in unprotected sex not only are breaking the rules, potentially reducing morale, and exposing themselves to disease as mentioned above, but may be reducing the fighting strength of our force. This is bad for the individual, bad for their Family, bad for the Army and our Nation. Abstinence is the only 100 percent protection against pregnancy and condoms are a good alternate plan at preventing an unplanned pregnancy. Having unprotected sex is irresponsible, dangerous, and unbecoming a Soldier.

Also, Becoming pregnant or impregnating a Soldier while assigned to Task Force Marne areas of operation, resulting in the female Soldier being re-deployed is a violation of General Order Number One. Both Soldiers will be subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Continued from History, Page 2

from past mistakes.

“History teaches us who we are and who the tribes are,” said Sgt. Gentry, adding that values like honor and courage in combat are essential for building a strong society.

Spccialist Deck, of Vero Beach, Fla., agrees. As a member of the Eastern Band of the Cherokees, Spc. Deck consulted with tribal elders at council before he committed to becoming a Soldier — a decision not

taken lightly among tribal members and never undertaken for just monetary gain.

Also following in the footsteps of ancestors who fought in the Civil War and uncles who served in the U.S. Navy, Spc. Deck said he was moved to join after a buddy was killed in Iraq. This is Spc. Deck’s first deployment.

“I sat down with my grandfather before I joined and talked to him about how I felt and he really

encouraged me,” said Spc. Deck. It was for this reason he urges all young people to follow their gut instinct and heart when choosing a career path.

Both Sgt. Gentry and Spc. Deck hope Native American Heritage Month will be a learning opportunity for all ethnicities. They hope people will be inspired to look deeper into Native American culture than what they see on television.

Native American Facts:

- There are 562 recognized tribes in the United States, including Alaska, according to the Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs.

- Native Americans do not receive a free college education from the American government. However, there

are a very limited number of schools that provide tuition waivers for Native Americans and room and board .

- The majority of Native Americans received their American citizenship in 1924. Many believe that the patriotic efforts of American Indians during World War I led the U.S. government to grant them citizenship.

- The Delaware Indians signed a treaty allowing George Washington to cross the Delaware River, winning the battle of Trenton. This changed the course of the Revolutionary War. The Delaware Indians would receive representation in congress and be granted their own state. After the revolution, they were never granted statehood and did not receive representation in congress.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Staff Sgt. Gabe Trollinger, of Grand Junction, Colo., is a squad leader for 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He was responsible for all communication and reporting during a recent cordon and knock operation searching for explosively formed

penetrator making material. He flawlessly maintained situational awareness throughout the operation, tracking three independently maneuvering squads, EOD and Military Working Dogs. Additionally, he managed all aviation assets, including Scout Weapons Teams, Air Weapons Teams, F-16s and Shadow UAV. His accurate and timely reporting ensured proper support and ensured his higher headquarters were able to accurately battle track the operation for the duration of the mission. For his dogged determination to support his fellow Soldiers and higher headquarters, Staff Sgt. Trollinger is Task Force Marne's Hero of the North.



Pfc. William Watson, of Lafayette, Ind., is a natural leader who routinely demonstrates leadership qualities well above his rank and experience level. He is assigned to Company C., Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. Pfc. Watson successfully managed the Brigade RETRANS through numerous

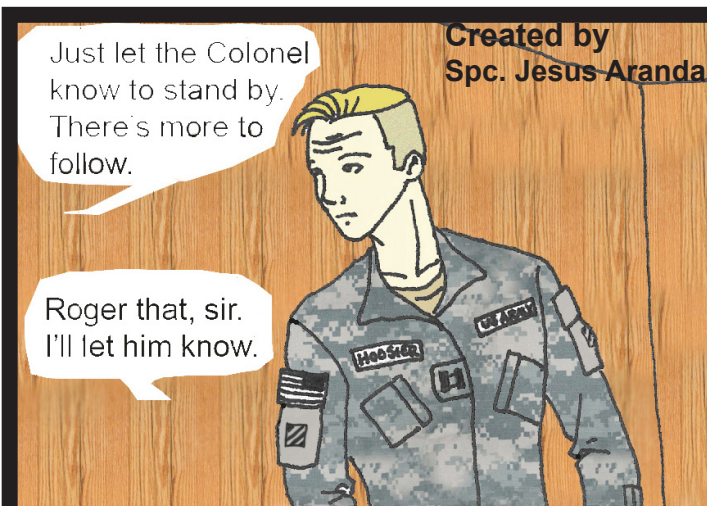
COMSEC changeovers while his platoon sergeant was serving on escort duty. He routinely sacrifices his personal time to ensure the welfare of his fellow Soldiers and is a role model for his peers to emulate. He was chosen to lead the company's overweight remedial physical training due to his outstanding physical fitness level and his ability to motivate Soldiers to do their best. Pfc. Watson's efforts have led to two Soldiers being removed from the program. He selflessly increased the overall morale in the company when he personally installed television service in the company's 27 housing units.

Previous Task Force Marne Heroes:

Nov. 12: Pfc. Jesus Hernandez
 Nov. 11: Spc. Antoine Hunt
 Nov. 11: Spc. William Freiburg

Nov. 10: Sgt. Baron Toms
 Nov. 9: Staff Sgt. Richard Stalvey
 Nov. 8: Pfc. Sean Stolfi

Nov. 7: Spc. Jared Waymire
 Nov. 4: Sgt. Keith Cathey



REGIONAL HEADLINES

Wedding Theft Takes Odd Turn

Associated Press

SHAWNEE, Kan. - A family that had wedding gifts and cell phones stolen during a Shawnee wedding reception said the thief may have identified himself by taking pictures of himself on one of the stolen phones.

During bride Michelle Olesen's outside wedding reception, someone inside the home took two cell phones, a camera and wedding cards loaded with cash from inside the home.

"Somebody had to be able to track down where the phones were," Olesen said. "That's my personal phone, that's my business phone. I have my family's contact information in it."

The newlyweds began their honeymoon arguing with the phone company to find out what numbers had been called and eventually calling the people the thief himself contacted. Olesen said the thieves' girlfriend helped get the phones back, but the camera and the cars are still missing.

The other missing items may not stay that way for long. When Olesen checked her daughters' phone they found pictures of an unknown man. The man was hired to work the wedding by the caterer. Police said the self-portrait is all they need to tie him to the crime

"You have to laugh, because it's

just so stupid" Olesen said. "It's like 'Americas Dumbest Criminals.'"

Police said they know who the man in the pictures is and are looking to find him.

St. Bernard acts as School Crossing Guard

Associated Press

Lulu helps the kids cross the street near Lynndale Elementary.

She belongs to human crossing guard Jill Jaspers.

Lulu even has a uniform -- a bright orange reflective vest.

Jaspers tells a local paper the kids love having Lulu around.

She adds the passing drivers even slow down a bit more to take a look at the big dog.

Woman rows from San Francisco to Hawaii

NewsLite.tv

SAN FRANCISCO - Ros Savage has rowed from San Francisco to Hawaii as part of a bid to become the first woman to row solo across the Pacific Ocean.

It took her 99 days to make the 2,900 mile journey across the ocean begging the question 'what is wrong with getting on a plane like everyone else?'

While it would be enough to put most people off rowing for life, this is

just the beginning for Roz - in 2009 she will row 2,600 miles to Tuvalu in the Southwest Pacific, followed by the final leg of her passage to Australia.

If successful, she will have rowed 7,200 miles over three years ... and have a very numb bum.

"If I was any happier I'd burst. It's been a huge challenge with its fair share of problems, but I've made it and I'm grateful to the ocean for allowing me safely across," Roz said.

"I really feel like my shore team and I have achieved something special -- we've touched a lot of people through the Web site and the podcasts and got them thinking about their impact on the environment. It's been worth every single one of the million or so strokes of my oars."

She hopes the journey in her 24-foot rowboat named The Brocade will help carry the message of ocean conservation in.

Correction

In the Nov. 13 edition of "The North Star" it stated that a Soldier had to be a U.S. citizen to re-enlist. That was incorrect. As long as the Soldier has a permanent resident card he or she is able to re-enlist.

THE

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