

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Golden Dragon Soldiers awarded Silver Star, Soldier's Medal

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2/10TH MTN. DIV. (LI) PAO

PATROL BASE DRAGON, Iraq – The Silver Star is the fourth highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and is awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.

It may be awarded to any person distinguishing himself for extraordinary heroism.

The Soldier's Medal is a military award of the U.S. Army that was introduced by law passed by the U.S. Congress on June 2, 1926, and may be awarded to any person distinguishing himself for an act of heroism not involving actual conflict with the enemy.

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.

Master Sgt. Eric Gagne, a native of Franconia, 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 has been credited for capturing several improvised explosive device cells, IED caches, weapons and terrorists involved in hostile acts against Coalition and Iraqi forces.

Gagne led the reconnaissance platoon on countless patrols to better seek out and destroy local IED cells. In addition, Gagne captured an IED triggerman and performed other missions resulting in the detention of terrorists throughout the Golden Dragon's area of operations.

Gagne was also commended for his attention to detail and ability to react to any situation.

For instance, Gagne, while waiting in ambush, spotted an IED triggerman attempting to move into position to detonate an IED. Moments before springing the ambush, Gagne noticed the triggerman had a small child with him.

Instead of using lethal force against the triggerman, Gagne chose to leap out at the terrorist and tackle him, rather than risk the life of the child.

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



Maj. Web Wright

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, Task Force Marne commander, pins a Soldier's Medal on Staff Sgt. Anthony Skirko, a fire support officer with the 2-14th Inf. Regt. "Golden Dragons," 2/10th Mtn. Div. (LI) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., and a native of Kemp, Texas, during an awards ceremony at Patrol Base Dragon June 8.

"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

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MARNE 6 SENDS

Education is key to success



MAJ. GEN. RICK LYNCH
TF MARNE COMMANDER

No matter where you are in the world, in life or in your career you can continue your education and improve your life.

You never have to stop your personal and professional development even if you are deployed.

I encourage Soldiers to pursue a degree or take continuing education classes. Don't spend the next year putting it off.

Develop a plan, prioritize your work load and research what your educational options are.

The Department of Defense has made great advancements on behalf of military members. The constant upgrades and changes to the Army's Continuing Education System is a testament to that.

In the past the Army paid 75 percent of a Soldier's tuition. Now Tuition Assistance is 100 percent, up to a specified cap.

This benefit is for active-duty Soldiers including officers, warrant officers, enlisted and activated Reserve and National Guard Soldiers.

Requesting TA has been made easier by a web-based system that allows you to make a request and enroll in courses all on the internet.

Technology is a great thing and by

taking online courses Soldiers can study at times that are most convenient for them — even as their responsibilities, schedules and duty assignments change.

Opportunities for online learning include: eArmyU, which allows Soldiers to work toward a degree from 28 accredited colleges and universities.

ACES continues to improve over time to ensure that Soldiers aren't forced to keep changing degree programs or schools with each move.

The Servicemember's Opportunity College is a group of colleges and universities who agree to share each other's courses in a particular program of study. Students can move freely among the colleges in a network without being reevaluated or worrying about whether or not courses will transfer.

Some people may not be interested in earning a degree but desire a skill or trade. To fill that need, the Army created the Credentialing Opportunities On-Line.

COOL gives Soldiers the chance to gain civilian training related to their military occupational specialties.

Just like college credit hours the licenses and certificates earned through COOL are worth promotion points for Soldiers competing for sergeant and staff sergeant.



ACES' mission is to improve the combat readiness of the Army by planning, resourcing, and implementing educational programs and services that support the professional and personal development of quality Soldiers.

The Education Center in theater can answer a lot of your questions, but the internet is also a good place to start.

Visit www.eArmyU.com, and start planning for your future.

Make the most of your deployment experience. Seek education opportunities.

ROCK OF THE MARNE!

THE Dog Face Daily

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AWARD

From Page 1

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.

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.

“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.”

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!”



Maj. Web Wright

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, Task Force Marne commander, stands with Master Sgt. Eric Gagne, the reconnaissance platoon sergeant with the 2-14th Inf. Regt. “Golden Dragons,” 2/10th Mtn. Div. (LI) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., and native of Francess town, N.H., after awarding Gagne with a Silver Star Medal June 8.

Safety Thought of the Day

Additional Generator Operator Safety

- Operate generators in a well-ventilated area to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Periodically inspect power cables for cuts, frays, and breaks.
- Keep adequate distance between camouflage nets, solar shades, and

the generator exhaust to prevent the possibility of them catching fire.

- For information on licensing, consult AR 600-55.
- For guidance on working with generators, consult the appropriate TM or operator’s manual.

HEADLINE HIGHLIGHTS

China newspaper editors sacked over Tiananmen ad

REUTERS

BEIJING — A newspaper in southwest China has sacked three of its editors over an advertisement saluting mothers of protesters killed in the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown, a source with knowledge of the gaffe said on Thursday.

Public discussion of the massacre is still taboo in China and the government has rejected calls to overturn the verdict that the student-led protests were subversive. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, were killed when the army crushed the democracy movement on June 4, 1989.

Li Zhaojun, deputy editor-in-chief of the Chengdu Evening News in Sichuan's provincial capital Chengdu, and two other members of the tabloid's editorial office had been dismissed, the source told Reuters requesting anonymity.

The newspaper and the Chengdu city government declined to comment. Li could not be reached.

On the 18th anniversary of the crack-

down Monday, the lower right corner of page 14 of the Chengdu Evening News ran a tiny ad reading: "Paying tribute to the strong(-willed) mothers of June 4 victims."

Authorities interrogated newspaper staff to find out how the advertisement slipped past censors. Newspaper ads need to be vetted in China.

Hong Kong's South China Morning Post said Wednesday a young female clerk allowed the tribute to be published because she had never heard of the crackdown.

She phoned back the person who placed the ad to ask what June 4 meant and he told her it was the date of a mining disaster, the Post said.

It was unclear if the man who placed the advertisement had been arrested. The man also tried to place the same advertisement with two other Chengdu newspapers, the source said.

The Communist Party has banned references to the crackdown in state media, the Internet and books as part of a white-wash campaign, meaning most young Chinese are ignorant of the events.

The 32-page Chengdu Evening News, which boasts a circulation of 200,000, has not suspended publication.

Stolen keys delay start of military mission

REUTERS

WARSAW — Poland's 1,200 troops assigned to NATO forces in Afghanistan will not achieve full combat readiness for up to several weeks due to stolen vehicle keys, the defense ministry said Thursday.

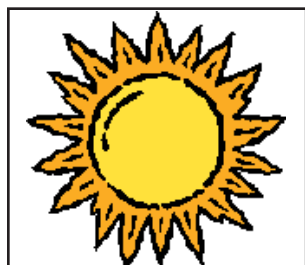
"We had been told a 10 percent theft rate was likely in convoys brought in from Pakistan, but we had not expected the spare car keys to go missing," defense ministry spokesman Jaroslaw Rybak told news channel TVN24. "We shall have to send away for spares, so it may take from several days to several weeks for our contingent to become combat ready."

According to media reports, Polish troops taking part in NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan have been assigned to patrol the mountainous border area with Pakistan to search for Taliban guerrilla activity.

The military vehicles used by Polish forces include Poland's Land Rover-like Honkers and U.S.-built Humvees.

Marne Weather Watch

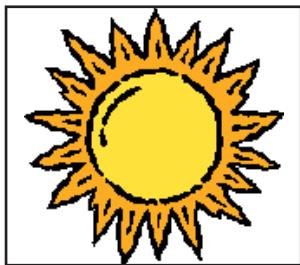
Saturday, June 9



Sunny

Low: 83F/High: 110F

Sunday, June 10



Sunny

Low: 81F/High: 108F

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Do not resist

lett ka-woom

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4				7		3		
	2		8			6		
	9		6			1		
3				2				6
5		1				2		4
7				1				8
		5			6		9	
		4			5		7	
		8		3				1

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to
yesterday's
puzzle:

2	1	5	7	6	3	9	4	8
8	4	9	5	1	2	6	3	7
7	3	6	9	4	8	5	1	2
4	9	8	6	2	5	1	7	3
6	7	2	3	9	1	4	8	5
3	5	1	4	8	7	2	9	6
5	8	4	1	7	6	3	2	9
9	2	3	8	5	4	7	6	1
1	6	7	2	3	9	8	5	4