

The North Star

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



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Military, State Dept. merge efforts to rebuild

By Sgt. Johnathon Jobson
TF Marne PAO

Senior military leaders and the U. S. State Department's Provincial Reconstruction Teams from U. S. Division - North signed into effect their version of the Unified Common Plan at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Jan. 8.

The plan serves to unite the efforts of TF Marne units and the PRTs to further the quest for stability and self-sustainability in northern Iraq.

While there has always been a close working relationship between the military units and the PRTs, the UCP will help increase progress and reduce duplication of efforts.

"What the UCP did was get us talking about each other, talking about our interests, talking about our desires and where we want to be in the future as things like the drawdown comes about, as the political environments changes, and as the national elections happen in Iraq," said Capt. Richard Williams, the international law officer for TF Marne G9 and author of the USD - N UCP.



Photo by Sgt. Chad Nelson, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.
Colonel Henry Arnold, commander of 41BCT, 1st Inf. Div., signs the Unified Common Plan at COB Speicher, Jan. 8.

The PRTs work directly with the local government in their assigned province and the military provides support to the PRT whenever requested. Teams of U. S. forces and PRT members go out into the local communities on a regular basis to check on the progress of the many projects in the area.

They also monitor the successfulness of the programs in place to help the Iraqis become more self-sustaining. This practice allows both parties to track which programs are working best in what areas and which ones may work in other areas.

"Where Task Force Marne really helps out is they take everything from each provincial reconstruction team in the north and create 'best practices,'" explained Matt Podolak, a governance specialist with the Salah ad-Din PRT.

The UCP emphasizes this by laying out guidelines regarding sharing of information, project funding and the responsibilities of all entities involved.

The UCP allows U. S. forces and the PRTs to adapt various business practices and efforts to best suit the provinces that they are working in by not setting hard rules that affect everyone that signs the plan.

The end the goal is the same for TF Marne and the PRTs, Capt. Williams said. "A future for Iraq, a government that is representative, effective, transparent, and provides a safe and happy life for its people," he added.

Iraqi police celebrate 88th birthday

By Pfc. Jessica Luhrs,
1BCT, 1st AD PAO

Everyone thinks the wealth of Kirkuk is the oil beneath the ground, the true wealth of Kirkuk is the Iraqi Police who sacrifice for the people of Kirkuk, according to Lt. Col. Daniel Cormier a Nashua, N.H., native and

the commander for 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

These words were spoken at a celebration honoring the Iraqi Policemen on their 88th birthday in Kirkuk. The ceremony; held at the IP Kirkuk Training Center, Jan. 8, hosted by

Major Gen. Turhan Abdalrah, police chief for Kirkuk, and attended by other distinguished guests.

Those guests included, Major Gen. Jamal Tahir, provincial director of police, Staff Major Gen. Abdul Amir

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'Daughters of Iraq'

Women play more vital role in war effort

By Pfc. Adrian Muehe
3SBCT, 2nd Inf Div PAO

Eleven women lined up to receive their payment for a month's work. They are the "Daughters of Iraq."

Soldiers from Company C, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, handed out payments at the Kana-An town hall, Jan. 7.

The "Daughters of Iraq" are women who augment the security forces at both government buildings and checkpoints to provide another layer of safety.

Women are usually not encouraged to work outside of the home. This program gives women, who have lost family to sectarian violence, the chance to make a living, helping the people of Iraq. With the Iraqi Police and the Iraqi Army being predominantly male, the "daughters" are called forth to perform these searches.

The "daughters" are doing something that was unheard of here six

years ago – empowering women. In a changing culture where women now have rights that once seemed impossible, the example these women set could one day be the standard.

This program is one of the reasons Diyala is a safer place today. With streams of recent female suicide bombers having been reduced to a low occurrence today, this program has proved to be an effective measure in preserving the peace in Iraq.

The Soldiers of Co. C, 5/20 Inf., have been issuing the payments to these women since September 2009, shortly after they arrived in Iraq. Payments are issued during the first week of every month for work done the previous month.

"We started off on a rough note," said 1st Lt. Christopher Maes, the fire support officer for Co. C., 5/20 Inf. "When we came in, they hadn't been paid in three months."

With constant visits and good record keeping, the Soldiers of Co. C, along with local government officials,

were able to get caught up on payments.

The mayor of Kana-An, Mudiyar Medhi, played a significant role in keeping the records accurate.

"This is one of the most squared away guys I've seen," 1st Lt. Maes said, as Mayor, Medhi sorted through his extensive records.

The partnership is vitally important to this program. With the Mayor's records matching those of Co. C, running this program is a smooth, easy process.

Company C Soldiers also helped with training the "daughters." In November, they accompanied female Soldiers from the 287th Military Police to teach them proper searching techniques. They learned in detail how to search women and were shown where contraband or SBIEDs may be hidden.

"We would like to give them more training before the elections in March, just to give them a refresher course," 1st Lt. Maes said.

With the elections, comes the opportunity for violence. It is vital to ensure these women are fresh and up to speed on what to exactly look for.

The funding for these payments come from the commanders emergency response program, but the Soldiers from 5/20th Inf. would like to make this a permanent fixture in Iraq's society.

Next week, Co. C Soldiers will be renegotiating and renewing the contracts for these women for 60 more days. Changes, if any are to be made, will not be drastic.

"Some women will have to change the buildings where they pull security," 1st Lt. Maes said. "There will be no changes to pay."

With one month's worth of hard work paid, these brave women will go on doing what they do to make Kana-An a safer place.

"This program is working really well," 1st Lt. Maes said. "Since we've been here, there haven't been any successful suicide attacks in the area."



Photo by Pfc. Adrian Muehe, 3SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. PAO

An interpreter for Co. C, 5th Bn., 20th Inf. Regt., 3SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div., counts out Nada Abdul's monthly payment in Kana-An, Jan. 7.

1st AD, Iraqi Soldiers find weapons cache

By Pfc. Jessica Luhrs,
1BCT, 1st AD PAO

Colonel Hammad, the commander of 4th Battalion, 46th Iraqi Army Brigade, led his Soldiers along with their U.S. partners from Company B, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor 1st Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Bliss, Texas, during a patrol south of Rihad in search of weapons caches and insurgents, Jan. 4.

This operation was fully led by the IA commander, Col. Hammad, after he received a tip about the location of a possible weapons cache in the area and then notified the U.S. forces.

Upon arrival to the area, the IA Soldiers pulled security while waiting for assistance from their U.S. forces partners, according to Col. Hammad.

After the arrival of Co. B, 1/37th Armor, the two patrolled the area with assistance from military working dogs and metal detectors, according to Capt. Dennis Maher, an El Paso, Texas, native and the Co. B, 1st 1/37th Armor commander.

This operation is the foundation for the partnership between Iraqi Security Forces and the people of Iraq, according to Capt. Maher.

Once they begin to make Iraq safer then the citizens will begin to put full



Photo by Pfc. Jessica Luhrs, 1BCT, 1st AD PAO

Soldiers of the 4th Bn., 46th IA Bde., conduct a patrol along with their partners from Co. B, 1/37th Armor, 1BCT, 1st AD during a patrol south of Rihad, Jan. 4.

trust into the IA.

“Although we did not locate any weapons or insurgents, through our partnership we were able to disrupt the enemy operations in the area, and we have also disrupted the movement

of the insurgents,” said Capt. Maher.

By having patrols in the area, the insurgents now know that the IA is onto them and will capture them and seize all weapons hidden in the area, according to Capt. Maher.

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Alzader, commander of the 12th Iraqi Army Division, Staff Brigadier Gen. Ayad, and Lt. Col. Cormier.



Photo by Pfc. Jessica Luhrs, 1BCT, 1st AD PAO

Members of the Kirkuk Police Department hold the flowers given to honor the fallen IP by 1st Bn., 30th Inf., 2BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., during the ceremony honoring the 88th IP birthday at the Kirkuk Training Center, Jan. 8.

During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Cormier also spoke of how impressed he was with the leadership, bravery, professionalism and capability of the Kirkuk IP.

“Whenever I see the youth in the streets going to school, I see the shops and stores open and thriving,” said Lt. Col. Cormier. “Whenever I see children smiling, I know it is because of the hard work and efforts of the police and security forces,”

“The police serve with honor and sacrifice for the hope of a better future,” he added.

During the ceremony to honor those that sacrificed their lives for a better future by serving in the Iraqi Police, Ma-

ajor Gen. Turhan and Lt. Col. Cormier presented flowers.

After the flowers were presented the IP units paraded the field saluting, Major Gen. Turhan, followed behind their trucks decorated for the occasion.

Also during the ceremony the units demonstrated how they would handle a criminal situation. Members of the IP and Emergency Service Units apprehended an insurgent; secured and cleared a crime scene, while the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team demonstrated defusing an improvised explosive device.

“These policemen are the future of Iraq,” said Lt. Col. Cormier. “The police are the true guardians of the nation an defenders of the citizens of Kirkuk.”

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North

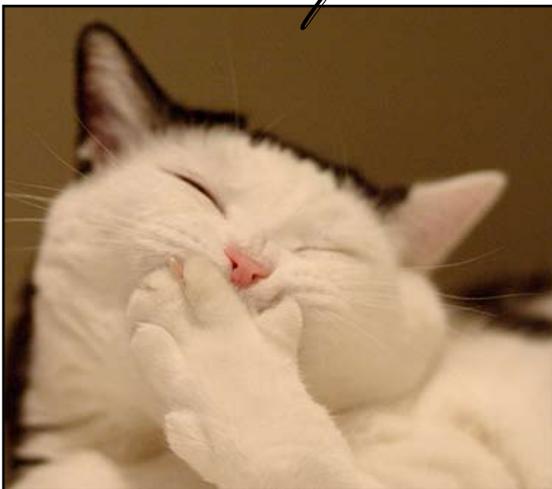


Michael Owen, of Seattle, Wash., has served as the team leader for Geospatial Support Team 34 for both Task Force Marne and Task Force Lightning for the past six months. During his tenure, Owen provided outstanding analytical support to the division and subordinate brigade combat teams by conducting and coordinating terrain analysis, national imagery exploitation, map graphic creation, and numerous additional geospatial reference data to support operations throughout United States Division - North. Owen leveraged national agencies' capabilities in direct support to every brigade in USD - N and those efforts have been instrumental in the successful detention of multiple enemy combatants in our battle space. Owen will continue to support United States forces with his analytical prowess while assigned to the National Ground Intelligence Agency as a team leader.



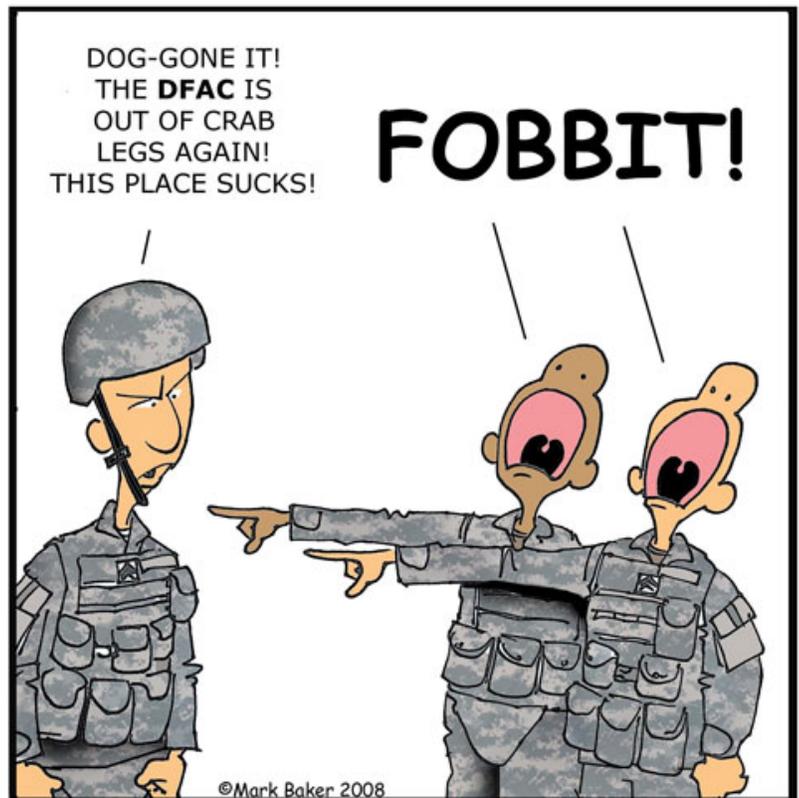
Private First Class Cody Cox, of Paragould Ark., is with Headquarters and Headquarters Command, 130th Engineer Brigade. His performance and dedication to his unit and mission has truly been exceptional. He continues to do an outstanding job to provide the availability and integrity for the brigade's automation systems connection to the secure internet protocol (SIPR) and the non-secure internet protocol (NIPR) local area networks while maintaining a positive attitude while balancing the demanding requests of the brigade helpdesk. Additionally, he is primarily responsible for the supplies covered in the Dell warranty program, ensuring all staff sections receive continuous support from the helpdesk. He routinely assists the brigade senior network manager with a myriad of tasks, accomplishing all with the assurance of network security. Private First Class Cox exemplifies the Army value of selfless-service by performing his duties honorably; ensuring the successful mission of his S-6 shop. His personal drive, commitment, care and selfless contribution to mission accomplishment make him a most deserving Task Force Marne Hero of the North

Name the Caption



Courtesy photo

A photo is worth a thousand words. It's worth even more with a snappy cutline. Submit a creative caption and get it published in next week's "North Star." There are multifarious reasons this cute little kitty is chuckling. Give us one. E-mail marcia.triggs@3id.army.mil.



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REGIONAL HEADLINES

War zone puppy will come to Kansas

The Wichita Eagle

VALLEY CENTER, Kan.- It looks like Bella the war puppy will be coming home to Kansas.

Amanda May, a Valley Center woman who was raising money to transport the puppy from her husband's base in Afghanistan, reported Monday that she reached her fund-raising goal.

After a story about the dog's plight was published, Warren Theatres owner Bill Warren told May he would donate \$2,500 to the cause.

"My company has always been a big supporter of animals," Warren said. "That was part of it, and part of it was the troops.

"Without any question I just thought, 'You know, this is the right thing to do.'"

More contributions streamed in earlier in the week as well. May plans to donate additional money to Tigger House, a volunteer animal rescue group in Kabul.

"Everybody in the community has just been so kind and so generous," May said. "It's truly amazing."

Bella, a mixed-breed puppy, wandered onto Sgt. Lucas May's camp in Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan, about a month ago.

May, a medic with the Kansas Army National Guard, got permission from military officials to rescue the dog. But because Army regulations don't allow

dogs to travel with troops, it will cost about \$2,500 — possibly more — to fly Bella to Wichita.

Lucas May is scheduled to return home in March. He hopes Bella will be able to fly back around the same time, and live with the Mays in Valley Center.

She is at least the second Afghani dog to be rescued by a Kansas soldier. Last year Dan and Peggy Corman of Derby raised about \$4,000 to transport ETTY (Embedded Training Team puppy), a black-and-white dog adopted by their son, Marine 1st Lt. Chris Corman, while he was in Mehtar Lam.

Bold shoplifter targets Favorite Target

www.11alive.com

HENRY COUNTY, Ga.- He isn't your typical shoplifter. He acts as if he has a right to steal expensive merchandise. He's even willing to defend himself with a weapon.

For the fourth time since June he's stolen goods from the same Target store in Henry County. Henry County Police released video from the store hoping someone can identify the shoplifter.

Unless you knew what was happening in the video, you would think the suspect was just another shopper. But he's leaving the store with a shopping cart full of merchandise without paying for the goods.

The last time he stole from the store was on Dec. 29th. He walked out of the Target store on Jonesboro Road near I-75 with two expensive vacuum cleaners valued at over a thousand dollars. It was the fourth time since last June he has walked out of the same store with merchandise.

On June 12th, he walked out with two blue ray disc players valued at \$600. On Aug. 21st, he walked out of the store with \$640 worth of GPS devices.

On Sept. 30th, the case changed from a simple shoplifting case to an armed robbery case when the suspect was confronted by a store employee, a loss prevention officer. In the video, you can see the suspect take out an ASP baton, an expandable baton that police use, and fend off the store employee.

"He changed the crime in pulling out that weapon and threatening that officer from a shoplifting case to an armed robbery case," said Henry County Police Captain Jason Bolton. After the confrontation the suspect nonchalantly walked out of the store and went on his way.

Captain Bolton said the suspect is bold and doesn't act like most shoplifters.

"Typically they will drop what they have, they will run or try to explain themselves," Capt. Bolton said. "It is unusual that once confronted he would pull a weapon out and turn it into a robbery."

THE North Star

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1st Infantry Division
2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,
3rd Infantry Division

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2nd Infantry Division
1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team,
1st Armored Division

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