

The North Star

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



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

Historical Collaboration

A Soldier with Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, shows soldiers of the Combined Security Force how to engage a target while standing, at the range near Kirkuk, Iraq, Jan. 27. The Kirkuk CSF, also known as the "Golden Lions," was recently formed and consists of Kirkuk Iraqi Police, Peshmerga and Iraqi Army soldiers.

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Dragon Brigade turns over two bases in Salah ad-Din

Special to the North Star
4BCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

Two bases were handed back to the Government of Iraq, Feb. 1, in accordance with the U.S. - Iraq Security Agreement.

The historic Mahmood Palace and the Sharqat Joint Coordination Center were both transitioned back to the GoI from the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. Sameer

al-Haddad, the Iraqi Receivership Secretariat, signed for both centers.

The Mahmood Palace was built as a place to celebrate Saddam Hussein's birthdays, and it still contains ornate chandeliers, columns, and decorative tiled floors and ceilings.

Previously the palace served as the Tikrit Joint Coordination Center where the Iraqi Security Forces, government officials and U.S. Army Sol-

diers coordinated emergency response functions for Tikrit.

With the transition of the Mahmood Palace, Lt. Col. Robert Cain, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment commander, promised to continue partnerships with the ISF and GoI.

"We continue to support the resolution by the Iraqi government to reduce

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Newly formed team sharpens skills

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

For nearly a century, three different Iraqi security organizations, operating in the Kirkuk province, have historically been at odds with each another.

However they have joined forces in hope of creating a secure Iraqi parliamentary election and a safer Kirkuk province, according to Lt. Salam Muhammad Amen, Kirkuk Combined Security Force, 4th platoon leader.

The Kirkuk CSF, also known as the "Golden Lions," was recently formed and consists of Kirkuk Iraqi Police, Peshmerga and Iraqi Army soldiers.

The Golden Lions currently have more than 100 soldiers and have been training with Alpha "Gators" Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Marne, for two weeks, and they are expected to graduate within the month. The Gators are 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Ga.

According to Staff Sgt. John King, a Belueville, Ill., native, and a squad leader with the Gators, the Golden Lions are trained similar to the U.S. Army's basic combat training.

The training the Golden Lions are receiving from the Gators includes; room clearance, basic rifle marksmanship, buddy and squad movement, medic training, proper searching techniques and convoy operations, according to Lt. Salam.

"I am very impressed with the level of training my soldiers are receiving and how quickly they are picking it up," Lt. Salam said.

The Golden Lions' leaders are not

the only ones impressed by their soldiers' teamwork, their Gator partners are also very satisfied with the results they are seeing.

What is being done by the Gators is incredible. They have brought three of Iraq's strongest forces together, and they have them excelling in every training element that is presented, Staff Sgt. King said.

"For example, today we have these soldiers out at the range, shooting

their AK-47, something we have been training them on for a few days, and they are already moving down the range in buddy teams, engaging the target," Staff Sgt. King said.

Staff Sergeant King added that the Gators have very high expectations for Combined Security Force Soldiers and the Gators are putting everything into training these soldiers expecting them to lead the way in security for the Kirkuk province.



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

A Soldier with Co. A, 1/30th Inf. Regt., 2BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., shows soldiers of the Combined Security Forces how to operate various weapons, at the Kirkuk Training Center on FOB Warrior, Jan. 27.

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the number of troops and the number of bases we occupy in Iraq," Lt. Col. Cain said.

"Even though we're reducing the number of bases throughout the country of Iraq, we are continuing to support the Iraqi government and the Iraqi Security Forces throughout the entire province and we'll continue to support them up until the last day that

we're here in Iraq," he continued.

For servicemembers who previously deployed with the unit to Baghdad during the "surge," working with ISF and seeing the transition of the palace was a sign of progress.

"When we came in during the surge everything was geared toward patrolling and pretty much IED negation. Now it's more of a professional

climate, dealing hand in hand with the Iraqis themselves ... it's a night and day difference," said Sgt. 1st Class George Havel, an artilleryman with 2/32nd Regt., who spent four months working with ISF at the JCC.

"It's very symbolic. This place is a piece of their history and they understand it. It's very well kept up for what it's gone through," he added.

TF Marne officials recognize Iraqis



Photo by Master Sgt. Duff McFadden 2BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO
An Iraqi soldier is presented an ARCOM by Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, commanding general, USD - N and Command Sgt. Maj Jesse Andrews, command sergeant major of TF Marne, during a recognition ceremony at FOB Marez, Jan. 20.

Special to the North Star 2BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

Five members of the Iraqi Security Forces were recognized, Jan. 30, by Task Force Marne officials during a ceremony at the Forward Operating Base Marez, in Mosul, Iraq.

Three federal police officers and two Iraqi Army soldiers were responsible for identifying and preventing Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED) throughout Ninewa province.

Police officers discovered one VBIED, Dec. 15, and safely evacuated civilians, military personnel and local emergency workers afterward. They then discovered a second VBIED, saving countless more lives.

On Jan. 20, two more VBIEDS were discovered by Iraqi Army soldiers in separate incidents.

The next day upon discovering a VBIED, an Iraqi soldier identified and pursued the extremist responsible for triggering the VBIED. Despite being wounded during the chase, the IA soldier was able to kill the person before he could harm other soldiers or Ninewa province residents.

During the ceremony, the Iraqi soldiers and Iraqi police officers were presented the Army Commendation Medal by Task Force Marne commander Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo and Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, the task force command sergeant major.

Study reveals active kids suffer less deployment stress

Special to the North Star Army News Service

WASHINGTON - Adolescents who believe that America supports the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and that Soldiers are making a difference in the world are less likely to suffer from stress when their parent deploys, according to research unveiled Jan. 28.

Army War College researcher Leonard Wong described his 2009 study during a media roundtable, Jan. 28, at the Pentagon. The study, which was supported by U.S. Army Forces Command, examined the effects of multiple deployments on military adolescents.

The research revealed that strong Army Families and increased activity by children also reduced the level of stress, Wong said.

Wong and War College colleague Stephen Gerras conducted a survey of more than 2,000 Soldiers, 700 Army spouses and 550 Army adolescents. They further interviewed more than 100 Army children (ages 11-17) at eight Army installations across the country, asking them a variety of questions based on psychological scales.

The study was based on six factors they believed influenced the amount of stress a child experiences when their Soldier deploys to war: Cumulative amount of deployments, strong Fami-

lies, supportive mentors, activities, communication and personal beliefs.

Wong said when children were asked to agree or disagree with the statement: "The American public supports the war," the results were significant.

"What we saw was not a steep relationship, but a significant relationship, that the more a child agrees with this statement, the lower their stress levels," Wong explained. He also said their analysis revealed that adolescents, especially teenagers, who were active in sports and came from strong military Families, produced significantly lower stress levels as well.

"If we had to pick the one influence that accounts for the most variant in a child's stress level, it is their participation in activities, specifically sports," Wong said. "It (sports) keeps them distracted, takes their mind off the deployment, keeps them busy," he added. "The next largest influence is that you need a strong Family."

Wong attributed strong Families as the reason why the majority of military children cope well during multiple deployments, noting the 56 percent of children surveyed said they were doing, "not Okay, but well or very well overall with deployments.

That surprised us, we were really expecting it to be worse," he said.

Wong said he was even more surprised when their research revealed the biggest predictor of a child's ability to cope with a life of deployments is the child's belief that Soldiers are making a difference in the world. "This totally surprised us," he added.

Wong stated the study showed a cumulative number of previous deployments did not significantly relate with adolescent levels of deployment stress.

"There was no raising of the stress levels," he said. "Interestingly, we found that with each deployment, the child's level of stress went down. That's because they've coped with it the first time, and then by the second time they've already learned how to deal with it, so when the third time rolls around, they deal with it even better."

Meanwhile, Wong emphasized that while there are a lot of hurting kids out there -- meaning those having trouble coping with a parent's deployment -- there are many others who've come to accept it as a way of life.

"There are also a lot of kids out there who have internalized the value of sacrifice, of selfless service, of duty.

And they're not happy about their parent being gone, but they understand it, and that helps them to cope."

For the complete study, visit: www.strategiestudiesinstitute.army.mil.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Specialist Christopher Gehrke, of Jersey City, N.J., is a mortarman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. While on patrol recently, a Stryker rolled over and Spc. Gehrke was the first Soldier to arrive at the scene. After making an initial assessment of one of the Soldiers and interpreter injured in the crash, he immediately began administering aid. Once he completed treating them, he assisted in evacuating three of the other injured Soldiers from the vehicle. Specialist Gehrke's calm and deliberate action under stressful conditions ensured the survival of one Soldier and the interpreter. His ability to excel in the face of adversity is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and the 23rd Regiment's history and makes him a most worthy Task Force Marne Hero of the North



Specialist Derrick Walls, of Jackson, Miss., is a gunner with Convoy Escort Team 1, Company A, 106th Brigade Support Battalion. On a recent convoy escort mission, Spc. Walls spotted an improvised explosive device due to his attention to detail and level of alertness. The IED was confirmed and reduced by Explosive Ordnance Disposal. Specialist Walls' keen mission focus and determination to excel in all aspects of his job prevented any damage to equipment or injury to his fellow Soldiers. Specialist Walls is also a model Soldier inside the wire. He has superior knowledge of Army Warrior Tasks and other basic Soldier skills and readily shares them with his peers. In order to recognize these accomplishments, he is recognized as today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North

Safety Thought of the Week: Crew Coordination



Crew coordination directly relates to mission performance and includes the following:

- *Involving the entire crew in mission planning and rehearsal of critical mission events and contingencies.*
- *Developing standardized communication techniques, including the use of confirmation and acknowledgement.*
- *Assigning specific task priorities and responsibilities to each crew member and their confirmation of those responsibilities as part of the crew briefing.*
- *Involving each crew member in the monitoring of terrain, visual conditions, mission, and other stressors.*
- *Creating an atmosphere where everybody feels like a team player, regardless of rank or experience.*
- *Reporting information helps the crew maintain a high level of situational awareness.*
- *Conducting an After Action Review.*



In the Club

Photo by Pvt. Zachary Zuber, 3SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. PAO

Staff Sergeant Joseph Spicer, senior human intelligence collector, 1/14th Cav., 3SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div., stands before the examination board for the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. Out of six non-commissioned officers from the Arrowhead Brigade that went before the board, Staff Sgt. Spicer was the only one recommended for induction. "Ultimately, this is a great experience that I can take back to my Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Spicer.

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Man finds counterfeit 200,000 in used car

United Press International

BALL GROUND, Ga. - Authorities in Georgia said a man discovered \$200,000 in counterfeit bills hidden in a compartment behind the back seat of a used car he recently purchased.

Cherokee County sheriff's deputies said Tye Kuykendall of Ball Ground was repairing a gas leak in the car he purchased for \$400 from a towing company last year, after it has been sitting in an impound lot since a 2006 drug bust, when he found a hidden compartment behind the back seat, WSB-TV, Atlanta, reported Feb 1. Kuykendall said the compartment contained a white sack filled with thousands of \$100 bills.

He said he called the Cherokee County Sheriff, which contacted U.S. Treasury officials, and the cash was found to be counterfeit.

Investigators said they are working with the U.S. Secret Service to determine where the bills may have originated from prior to the car's impounding.

Community gathers to help Port Angeles mom

United Press International

PORT ANGELES, Wash.- Two fundraisers for the Goodwin family of Port Angeles raised about \$19,000 to help with medical expenses related to chemotherapy for the family's mom, Tami Goodwin, and to help the family

have some time together on a vacation.

On Jan. 29, the student leadership class at Port Angeles High School played host to the community for a talent show that brought in about \$11,000, said adviser Rachel Ward.

"It went really good -- there were between 800 and 1,000 people there," she said. "There was a lot of good talent and nice acts -- it was a really fun evening for both students and the family. The whole Goodwin family, even one from Georgia, made it except for Tami, who was not able to come."

Tami Goodwin, a 1980 graduate of Sequim High School whose two daughters attended Port Angeles High School -- has been diagnosed with a sarcoma, a cancer of the soft tissue.

The 47-year-old woman, an employee of Green Crow in Port Angeles, recently underwent a round of chemotherapy through the MD Anderson Cancer Treatment Center in Houston, which administered it at the Thomas Family Cancer Center in Sequim.

Goodwin's 22-year-old daughter, Britany, is a hair-stylist. Danika, 19, is enrolled at Peninsula College and plays basketball there.

More than 30 acts of dance, music, balloon animal making and more entertained for a couple hours.

Port Angeles School District students in the Jazz Combo band won top honors in the talent contest, Ward said.

A dinner and silent auction added

nearly \$8,000 for the family when more than 300 people showed up at the Oak Table Cafe.

The auction of items from throughout the community netted about \$4,100 and dinner added another \$1,400.

And, based on pre-event pledges, an additional \$2,500 is expected to come in from donors such as Green Crow.

Cathy Hoover, a close friend of Tami Goodwin who organized the dinner and auction, said it was a "successful and very fun evening."

Tami was there the whole night, and she did just wonderful," said Hoover. "She is one amazing person and is so grateful to the community for everything they have done. Her mother, Ellen [Arnbrister], has been awesome, and her sister Roxy [Wells] has also been there helping her all along.

When she first got the chemo, she needed someone with her 24 hours a day, and Roxy was there."

Sister-in-law Diana Young has also been helpful throughout Tami's battle with cancer, Hoover said.

Hoover arranged for a nice set of luggage for Tami Goodwin in case the family decides to take a trip together. "I don't know if they have ever gone on a family vacation all together," she said. "So if they want to go and spend some time together, we hope some of what we raised can be helpful. She has touched so many lives."

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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