

# The North Star

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



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## Army proposes new combat vehicle

By C. Todd Lopez  
Army News Service

The Army released a request for proposal for the Ground Combat Vehicle Feb. 25 -- marking an official start for defense contractors to begin competing for the right to build the service's next combat vehicle.

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli said the new vehicle will not be simply a rehash of the cancelled Future Combat Systems, but a relevant combat vehicle based on Army experiences in combat.

"This is a vehicle here that takes into account the lessons of eight years of war. It is not just FCS warmed over," said Gen. Chiarelli.

The general said key performance parameters for the vehicle include, among other things, full-spectrum capability, net-readiness, and mobility. It should have the operational mobility of the Stryker and underbelly protection of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, or MRAP, according to the Brigade Combat Team Modernization Plan released Feb. 19.

General Chiarelli said the Army is hoping for "three solid proposals" - those proposals must be in by April 26. The Army will then award technology development contracts to bidders in September. Contract awardees will then enter the technology development phase that runs through December 2012.

Ultimately, Gen. Chiarelli said, the Army expects to award a low-rate initial production contract for the GCV by

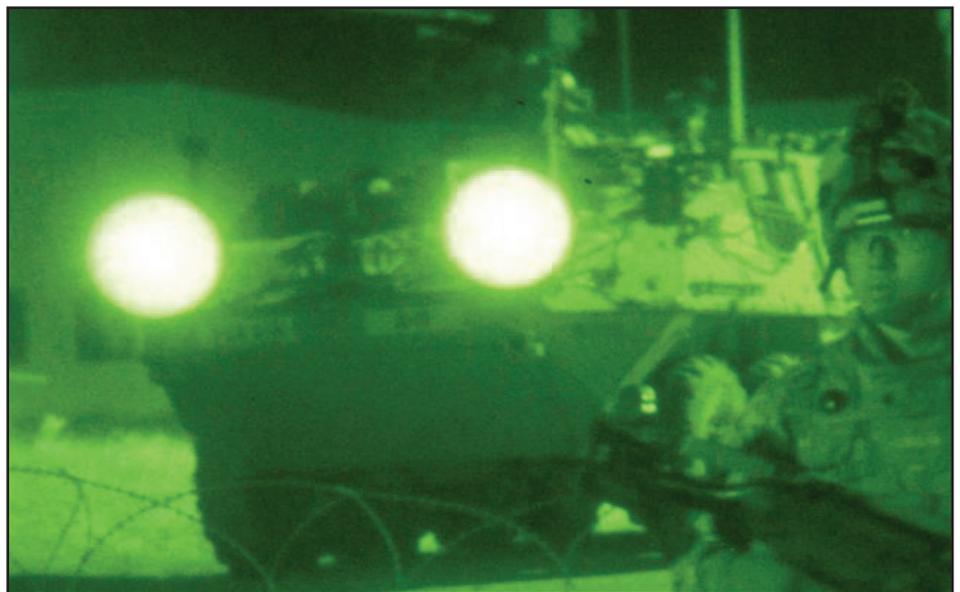


Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony White

*The operational mobility of the Stryker, pictured here, is one of the capabilities the Army desires in the new ground combat vehicle. The Army released a request for proposal, Feb. 25, for the GCV.*

March 2016, and achieve initial operational capability in the second quarter of 2019.

Adaptability to the operational environment is key for the GCV.

"It will allow commanders to make a determination on what level of protection they need on that vehicle based on the enemy situation they find themselves in," he said.

The general also talked about the way the Army has changed operationally, as Soldiers at the furthest reaches of the battlefield today provide as much information upstream to commanders as commanders are pushing information downstream.

The change has resulted in a need to move decision-making responsibility

closer to the Soldier.

"I believed you had a period (in the past) when decision making basically flowed from the top on down," he said. "Orders were given to the different levels of the chain of command. Today, we see as much information being passed up, from the edge, as we see being passed down from above. Whereas before we had decision making, very strict decision making. Today, we have commanders who provide intent to Soldiers that are down on the edge."

Facilitating the faster, more secure flow of information is something Gen. Chiarelli said the Army is working on by developing its information network, including the "Everything over Internet Protocol" concept.

# TF Marne seniors show b-ball skills

By Spc. Jessica Zullig  
135th Mobile PA Det.

Soldiers age 35 and older had an opportunity to compete against their peers in a basketball tournament at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, March 6.

The tournament, sponsored by the Moral, Welfare and Recreation organization, was a “slam dunk,” for Task Force Marne Soldiers.

“I decided to compete to show that this old man still has moves,” said Master Sgt. Raney Young, from the Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Ga., and team member of the Legends. “I think the point of the tournament was to have fun but it also gave the younger Soldiers an opportunity to see the senior guys in a different atmosphere; show them that we can have fun.”

Six teams, two female

and four male, laced their sneakers and donned jerseys for the games with the bleachers full of supportive co-workers.

“I had a person in my office compete in the tournament and I attended to show support and help raise unit morale,” said Master Sgt. Edward Wright from DSTB, 3rd ID.

“The whole group was supportive; players and fans. We all showed camaraderie tonight,” said Lt. Col. Bryan Walker, chaplain for TF Marne and team member of the Legends.

Three of the four games ended in overtime. As the final seconds slipped away, the crowd cheered on their favorite teams.

Hell-On-Wheels from the 2025th Transporta-



Photo by Spc. Jessica Zullig, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**Major Katrisa Norwood, Bulldogs team member from DSTB, 3rd Inf. Div., goes for a layup during the championship game against the Marne-izers of DSTB, 3rd ID, at COB Speicher, March 6. The Bulldogs came out on top with a final score of 13-11.**

**See Tourney, Page 3**

## Wearing red on Friday supports deployed servicemembers

By Suzette Owens  
Task Force Marne

Travelling throughout Contingency Operating Base Speicher everyone I know or that recognizes me knows when it's Friday without looking at a calendar.

Fridays are very special because that's the day I wear red. Yes, red is my favorite color; however that is not the reason I wear red on Fridays.

I received an e-mail in 2005 that I considered more than a chain letter. I do not normally read chain letters, but this one was forwarded by my boss, so I decided to read it.

I cannot remember the entire e-mail but this is some of what I remembered, “For all of the men and women

in the armed services still fighting on our behalf as well as those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, know that you have our continuing support, prayers and eternal gratitude. We shall lead with class and dignity by further demonstrating our solidarity by wearing something red every Friday until all of our troops come home”.

This e-mail was emotional and heartwarming so I continue to wear red on Fridays at home and while deployed.

Please join me in showing your support for our Soldiers who still continue to fight for our nation by wearing something red on Friday now and every Friday until all our Soldiers return home. “Thanks for your support”.



# Combat readiness includes taking care of feet

By Spc. Michael Adams  
TF Marne PAO

Whether or not a Soldier is on a ruckmarch, or walking to a dining facility, they're on their feet.

In order to be more combat effective there are a few pointers troops should follow to make sure they keep their feet healthy.

"Foot care starts in the morning," said Capt. Leighanne Brown of Redwood City, Calif., and a physician's assistant with Task Force Marne. "When you get up in the morning and go to shower, wash your feet. Lots of people forget that. Wash your feet with soap and a cloth."

Captain Brown also advised Soldiers to look at their feet. The best time to look is

while you are putting your boots on in the morning and make sure nothing is wrong with them.

"Take two seconds to look at and feel the bottoms and top of your feet and make sure everything is doing well. Also, make sure you put on clean socks every day and make sure your feet are dry."

In order to make sure your feet are in good condition, Staff Sergeant Ernest Hinojos, the Division - Main Aid Station noncommissioned officer in charge had a few words of advice.

"Make sure your boots are the right size and that you don't overpowder," he said. Staff Sergeant Hinojos added that Soldier's boots need time to dry when they are

not being worn.

Staff Sergeant Hinojos also added to change the insoles of your boots every so often. This will make the life of the boots longer and make your feet more comfortable. He added that cushion insoles are better than gel insoles for more comfort.

While using powder is important, it needs to be applied in the right manner.

"They don't need to put powder on their feet," said Staff Sgt. Hinojos. "They need to put powder in the boot and let the boot absorb the moisture."

Captain Brown also spoke about proper footwear for Soldiers.

"Boots are like tires, if your tires are bald, you change your tires," she said.

"The same thing applies to your boots. When you look at your boots, make sure you have some treadware left."

Staff Sergeant Hinojos advised that a Soldier should regularly wear different pairs of boots and that troops should not wear boots for any longer than two years.

He added that if a troop does a lot of ruckmarches and walking, they may consider changing out their boots earlier.

For physical training, runners should replace their running shoes after six months and that comfortable feet make a Soldier's PT more affective.

For more information on how to properly take care of your feet, visit your local unit aid station.

## Continued from Tourney, Page 2

tion Company rolled over Fear Not from the 21st Combat Support Hospital with a score of 26-14.

An overtime victory sent the Ballers from DSTB, 3rd ID, to the bench and the Legends, also from DSTB, 3rd ID, to the finals with a score of 28-26.

The most anticipated event of the night was the female teams' all-or-nothing face-off where the crowd exploded with excitement and support. The Marne-izers and Bulldogs, both from DSTB, 3rd ID, hit overtime with the score tied at 11. The Bulldogs chewed through the Marne-izers' defense making the final score 13-11, and the Bulldogs the women's champions.

"I competed in the tournament because the Marne-izers needed another person," said Capt. Casandra Ades, Chemical, Biological, Radiation, and Nuclear operations officer for DSTB, 3rd ID. "It's always good to be competitive, but it was more of a learning experience for me; I don't know how to play."

The tournament was meant to bring the base together with a showcase of friendly competition."

The males' bracket ended with the championship game between the Legends and Fear Not. The game went into overtime with the score tied at 16. The Legends sunk a few more baskets winning the tournament with a score of 24-17 and clenching the title.

Lieutenant Colonel Walker commented that he's a big fan of age-specific, sporting events by saying, "It makes for a better game."

All the teams expressed their appre-

ciation for the people who made the tournament possible.

"It's good to have age-specific, sporting events," said Maj. Katrisa Norwood, the lead scorer for Bulldogs. "When you get those younger Soldiers out here, it's hard to keep up."

Master Sergeant Wright agreed with Maj. Norwood by stating, the base should have more sporting events categorized by age, like softball, flag football and horse shoes.



Photo by Spc. Jessica Zullig, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**Soldiers from Fear Not, 21st CSH (Orange) play against Hell-on-Wheels, 2025 Transportation Co. in a 35-and-over Basketball Tournament on COB Speicher, March 6.**

## Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Sergeant Jendys Machado, of Hialeah, Fla., with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, is assigned as the Battle noncommissioned officer for the Tactical Operations Center. While traveling from Forward Operating Base Cobra to Forward Operating Base Normandy, Feb. 9, the helicopter that Sgt. Machado was in, was forced to make an emergency landing on an unsecured landing zone. Acting with almost no communication assets and limited situational awareness, Sgt. Machado was able to quickly take charge and secure the emergency landing zone, although he was not the senior Soldier on the ground. His actions enabled the helicopter crew to report the disabled aircraft and to coordinate a hasty recovery of personnel and equipment. Because of Sgt. Machado's demonstrated leadership abilities and calmness under pressure, he is an excellent choice for today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Specialist John Lane, of Birch River W. Va., is with Detachment One, 115th Engineering Company, 779th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade. He goes above and beyond his duties as a plumber and carpenter for his unit. He performs his assigned duties efficiently and expeditiously with very little supervision. Working at a level of knowledge and skill well above his rank, Spc. Lane is technically and tactically proficient and possesses an extremely strong work ethic. Not only does Spc. Lane excel at his job, he also possesses civilian acquired skills as an iron worker and equipment operator as well. Specialist Lane's civilian skills were vital to the successful construction of a lightweight counter, mortar radar tower on Radar Hill. Specialist Lane dug all the holes for the tower posts and completed most of the above ground work on the tower because of his expertise in an above ground construction. Specialist Lane's crucial mission completion contributions reflects great credit on his unit and the United States Army and make him a clear choice for today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

# Film festival celebrates Iraqi cinema

## Cultural Tidbit Special to the North Star

"The Right to a Secure and Stable Life" is the motto for the third annual Baghdad International Film Festival.

The first festival took place in 2005, but it was held only in 2007 since then because of security concerns, until now. This year, members of the festival feel that the security situation has improved significantly and the festival can take place once again.

The sponsor of the festival is the Iraqi Filmmakers Without Borders.

The organization was created to recognize Iraqis who are in the film industry worldwide.

Over the course of the festival, there will be 53 movies shown, which will range from fictional films to documentaries.

These movies will come from all over the world, including nations such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, France, The Netherlands, Denmark and many others.

Filmmakers Without Borders will use the festival to show the world about

Iraqi culture. The films will show numerous aspects of Iraqi life and culture, including how terrorism has affected the nation.

The ultimate goal is to encourage Iraqi filmmakers to begin rebuilding Iraqi cinema in a peaceful Iraq and for the world to take notice of what the Iraqi film community is contributing and will contribute to it's nation.

The festival will take place in Baghdad. While there is not an exact date for the festival, planners expect for it to begin in mid-October.

## Task Force Marne celebrates St. Patrick's Day



Come join Task Force Marne G6-NETOPS for the first annual Leprechaun Look-a-like Contest.

So, yer felin lucky eh? Fear not yer luck is bout to tern! All you have to do is choose your leprechaun and take a photo.

Submit your photo no later than March 16 to the G6-NETOPS (room C5 in the G6 corridor). Your photos will be posted in the main foyer March 17 (Leprechaun Election Day). The winner will receive a prize! Still not sure? Call us for all the details at SIPR 670-0154.

# REGIONAL HEADLINES

## Carjacking victim concocted kidnapping

### United Press International

HOUSTON - Police in Houston said they canceled an Amber Alert after learning a man lied about his nephew's abduction to speed investigation of his stolen car.

Investigators said the man, whose name was not reported, told police March 7 he had been carjacked at 4:15 a.m. by two thieves who drove off with his nephew, Kevin Williams, 6, sleeping in the back seat of the 2000 Lincoln Navigator, KPRC-TV, Houston, reported March 8.

However, police said the man later admitted there had not been a child in the car and he misled investigators to get more attention from officers. Police said it was unclear whether the man even has a nephew named Kevin Williams.

Police officials said they plan to press charges against the man for filing a false report. The stolen vehicle had not been found as of March 7.

## Grenade found during grave digging in Georgia

### United Press International

GRIFFIN, Ga. - Investigators say a grenade was found in Griffin, Ga., by a man who was digging a grave for his dog in the backyard of a local home.

WGCL-TV, Atlanta, said after Griffin homeowner Jim Lepore found the explosive device March 5, authorities were contacted and a robot

was used to remove the grenade from the property.

Firefighters said the grenade appeared to be still active and potentially dangerous.

Authorities said the grenade was detonated at Spalding County Fire Department headquarters as a precaution, WGCL reported.

"It was detonated so that the item would not have to spend a long duration in transit on the roadway," said Griffin Police Investigator Bryan Clanton.

No information about the grenade's possible origins were reported.

## Marble Crazy showcases world of marble making

### The Chieftain

Marble makers around the country were at the top of their game March 6, showing off their art for hundreds of people to see.

As the 10th annual Marble Crazy event at Moon Marble Company in Bonner Springs kicked off their second day, March 6, a line quickly formed outside of people waiting to see some of the most renowned glass artists of the time.

Standing by as glass artist Jes Durfee, from Duluth, Minn., took the spotlight was Lawrence resident Kara Holcomb. With her young daughter in her arms, Holcomb looked on, wide-eyed, as Durfee sculpted a small marble using two glass rods.

"I think it's really neat," Holcomb said. "I had no idea how (marble

making) was done. I had never thought about it much but it's very cool."

Holcomb, who has never been to Marble Crazy before, found out about the event from her friend and said she didn't even know Moon Marble Company existed.

"I've lived in Kansas for years and never knew," she said. "I think it's really awesome. All the old toys are neat and I didn't know how many different kinds of marbles there were."

Marble Crazy opened to the public March 6 and continued the next day with about 23 artists showing off their talent.

There also for the first time was Debra Hisle, of Leawood, and her children. She said she found out about the event through her parents.

"I thought it would be awesome for the kids," she said.

Her first year wasn't a disappointment either. Hisle said she's never been to Moon Marble Company but was impressed with what she saw. "It's amazing. The marbles are absolutely gorgeous works of art," she said.

As several artists took the spotlight throughout the day, guests of Marble Crazy were able to stand by and ask questions while the marbles were being created.

Different artists used various techniques for their creations ranging from glass sticks and a torch to glass blowing and even a marble-making machine.

## THE North Star

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2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,  
3rd Infantry Division

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1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team,  
1st Armored Division

25th Combat Aviation Brigade,  
25th Infantry Division  
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