

# The North Star

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



Volume 1, Issue 68

April 12, 2010

## Heroes get 'Proper Exit'

By Sgt. Chad Nelson  
135th Mobile PA Det.

Eight Soldiers, who physically recovered from combat injuries received as early as several months to years ago, arrived at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, April 8, as part of Operation Proper Exit.

A seven-day program, Operation Proper Exit allows wounded Soldiers to share their experiences with servicemembers deployed to Iraq and to view the progress in some of the combat zones in which they were injured. The goal of the Heroes' journey was to encourage "psychological closure," as part of the Soldiers recovery, by allowing them to witness firsthand how their sacrifices contributed to the increased security and stability in Iraq, according to Richard C. Kell, the executive director of



Photo by Sgt. Chad Nelson, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.  
**Corporal (ret.) Roberto Cruz, who was shot by a sniper in 2005, receives a hero's welcome at TF Marne Headquarters on COB Speicher, April 8.**

Troops First Foundation.

"Part of the idea is to show the progress [in Iraq]," said Mr. Kell, who has brought 29 wounded Soldiers back to Iraq since the operation be-

gan in June 2009. "We provide the opportunity. What they get from it from a personal standpoint, obviously, is 29 different things."

He added that each Hero

has grown and healed in some measure.

"I think that they're able to answer some questions for themselves," he said.

For Cpl. (ret.) Roberto Cruz, who was shot by a sniper in 2005, some of his questions were answered when he had an opportunity to talk to his former team leader who saved his life.

"That helped heal some old wounds that I had," said Cpl. Cruz.

"I think I found what I left here is my other half; the piece that I wanted. I left in a stretcher and now I have the opportunity to leave on my own two feet.

It gives them a chance to close the final chapter of their life that they left open when they were over here," said Sgt. Robert Brown, a

**See EXIT, Page 2**

## Stryker dental team keeps troops' teeth healthy

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

When Army medical care in a deployed environment comes to mind, most people think of combat medics out in the field working with Soldiers.

What many don't realize is that in-

fantry brigades also bring their own dentists.

Meet Capt. Jaylon Waite, a native of Soldotna, Alaska, the dentist for 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, and officer in charge of the 3 SBCT, 2nd ID Combat Dental

Team currently deployed at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq.

"Our role (as medical) is to preserve the fighting force, to keep them healthy and on the battlefield," said Capt.

**See DENTAL, Page 3**

# TF Marne remembers Holocaust

By Spc. Michael Adams  
TF Marne PAO

On January 6, 1946, Pastor Martin Niemöller wrote a poem about the Holocaust and the rise of Nazism in his native Germany:

“They came first for the communists, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a communist. Then they came for the Jews and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn’t speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me and by that time no one was left to speak up.”

This poem was recited by emcee Capt. Jason Gordon, trial counsel for Task Force Marne, the Days of Remembrance observation, April 9, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

“This was one of the ugliest moments in the history of mankind,” he said at the beginning of the ceremony. “My words cannot remotely

capture the exceeding horror perpetrated upon those of the Jewish faith.”

The ceremony consisted of a documentary where former Soldiers and victims of the holocaust discussed their experiences while the camps were liberated. Specialist Jason Kocsis, with the 1083rd Transportation Company, 541st Combat

Sustainment Support Battalion spoke about being a Jewish Soldier and the importance of this event.

“Remembering is the first step to making sure this never happens again,” he said.

Specialist Kocsis then spoke about the tragedy of

the events that occurred during World War II.

“We will never know what could have come from those people (who were killed,) Jewish or not,” he said. “The cure for cancer could have come from one of the victims.”

The ceremony also had

**See CANDLE, Page 3**



Photo by Spc. Michael Adams, TF Marne PAO

**Captain Cameron Edlefsen, of Frederick, Maryland, and a contract physical law attorney with TF Marne, lights a candle as part of the “Days of Remembrance” in observance of victims of the Holocaust, April 9, at COB Speicher. Captain Edlefsen’s great grandmother survived the Holocaust.**

**Continued from EXIT, Page 1**

military mentor with the Troops First Foundation and a wounded Soldier.

“Before, they were just ripped out of country. This gives them that chance to see the improvements, to see it wasn’t in vain, that their sacrifices were worth it,” he said.

Seeing the progress Iraq has made since the Heroes received their wounds doesn’t just help heal their own mental wounds, it will help heal the wounds of the Families of fallen Soldier’s, as well.

“As far as the progress that’s taking place [in Iraq] ... they’re excited about calling their Families and friends of those who didn’t make it back, and say that their sacrifice was meaningful,” Mr. Kell said.

Their sacrifices have inspired troops currently deployed to Iraq to do things right, to live up to their heroic efforts performed at a more volatile time in Iraq’s history and to honor the message hanging above the door the wounded Soldiers entered: “I will not fail those with whom I serve.” This idea was backed up by Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, Task Force Marne, commanding general, during a speech given to the eight-Heroes.

“What we’d like—all these troopers right here—they want you to know,” said Maj. Gen. Cucolo, pointing to more than 100 servicemembers and civilians, gathered in the division main headquarters foyer.

“That your pain and sacrifice—most importantly your service—means so much to us; you inspire us ... we’re going to end this right.”

The Heroes were able to witness exactly how TF Marne plans to “end it right” with a visit to the task force’s joint operations center and the joint expeditionary forensic facility.

At both these places, Soldiers explained what U.S. forces are doing to ensure Soldiers remain as safe as possible when out on mission and how they’re ensuring Iraqis will be prepared to take care of themselves after the drawdown of American forces in Iraq.

This is the operation’s fifth mission since its inception in June 2009.

## Continued from CANDLE, Page 2



Photo by Spc. Michael Adams, TF Marne PAO

**Specialist Jason Kocsis, with the 1083rd TC, 87th CSSB, speaks during the "Days of Remembrance" Holocaust observance, at COB Speicher, April 9.**

Soldiers lighting seven candles. The first candle was for the women who were murdered. The second candle was for all who were with the victims in thought and prayer and those who resisted by force of arms.

The third was for the one million children killed by the Nazis. The fourth was for the non-Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust. The fifth was for the survivors of the Holocaust. The sixth candle was for the world, the ultimate victim of the Holocaust as it lost so many good people senselessly. The seventh candle was for those at the event who continue to stand up against tyranny around the world.

Captain Cameron Edlefsen, of Frederick, Md., and a contract physical law attorney, lit the final candle. This ceremony meant something special to him because his great-grandmother survived the Holocaust, and he was happy to help TF Marne remember this event.

"It was an honor to be here," he said "Based on what I saw in this presentation and the Holocaust museum in Washington D.C., just knowing the atrocities she must have observed and went through herself, it's hard for anybody to go through that, but when it's your Family Member, it touches you even more."

## Continued from DENTAL, Page 1

Waite. "We fulfill the role of conserving the fighting force dentally."

Back at Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Wash., Capt. Waite and his team worked hard to ensure the brigade's Soldiers were caught up on their dental needs, so they wouldn't have to schedule a routine exam while deployed. This ensures that Soldiers are dentally fit for duty and are able to focus on missions instead of when they need their next cleaning.

"My primary mission here is emergency dentistry, in case something goes wrong," said Capt. Waite.

"However, we will do anything in our capabilities. You don't have to be hurting, or have a broken tooth. If someone comes in and wants me to check them to see if they're healthy, I'll do that."

Since he is the only dentist in the brigade, he is consequently the only Army dentist in Diyala province, and he has Soldiers come from all over the region to see him for their dental needs. Being strictly a general dentist, and not an orthodontist or specialist, he sometimes needs

outside help.

"I don't have as many capabilities as I do in garrison, so I have to be careful what I get into, I don't want to bite

off more than I can chew," said Capt. Waite.

"We have other dentists not too far away at Joint Base Balad, so if I need ad-

vanced help or support, they have more advanced specialists I can consult."

Besides having specialists at JBB, he has a support team here of two dental technicians, Spc. Lorenzo Cano, and Spc. Mark Van Wart.

"Dentistry is a four-handed job," said the brigade dentist. "They're my two other hands, without them I'm not much good."

I usually have forceps in one hand and a pick in the other, so they're there to hand me other utensils or supply suction."

Even with most people having a fear of dentists, Capt. Waite enjoys his role in this combat team.

"My job rocks." exclaimed Capt. Waite. "I get to work on Soldiers. They're good patients. They're typically tough ... Dentistry is fun, it's mechanical, it's artistic ..."

The Army has many medical professionals at hand to ensure Soldiers are capable of completing their missions.

Even though they are constantly overlooked, the combat dental team is an essential force component to help keep the Army rolling along.



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

**Captain Jaylon Waite, the dentist for 3SBCT, 2nd ID, gives a routine exam to 1st Lt. John Mones, a platoon leader for Co. C, 5/20th Inf. Regt., 3 SBCT, 2nd ID, at FOB Warhorse, April 7.**

## Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Private First Class Tai Barbee, of Bronx, N.Y., is with 3rd Battalion, 25th General Support Aviation Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. He is an air traffic controller and controller-in-charge assigned to Contingency Operating Base Speicher's radar approach control who always conducts his duties using mature judgment and professional confidence. On the night of Feb. 26, two aircraft required assistance when they both encountered a weather situation known as instrument meteorological conditions. These events were handled as emergency situations because of the severely reduced visibility. Private First Class Barbee calmly took charge of the situations and guided the controllers under his watch through priority handling procedures. They cleared the airspace, established radar contact, vectored each aircraft to the final approach course, and gave them a precision approach. His calm and focused efforts guided the two aircraft safely back to COB Speicher. Private First Class Barbee's actions averted a potentially catastrophic situation and earned him the distinction of being today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Sergeant Jackie Fisk, of Ashville, Ohio, is with 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He is a fire support sergeant who recently spent two weeks building target packages and restricted operating zones that were approved through the Battalion, Brigade, and Division levels. He built these items to facilitate a Joint Fire Coordination training exercise. During the training, a fire support team coordinated the effects of a Company Mortar Section, Multiple Launch Rocket System launchers, Scout Weapons teams, and a pair of U.S. Air Force F-16s in a combat environment. His actions during the training were critical to its success. He effortlessly managed control measures, enabling higher echelons the ability to clear airspace, maintain situational awareness, and provide accurate and timely indirect fires. He performed duties that are typically done by a sergeant first class at battalion level. His outstanding performance is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Arrowhead Brigade and make him a most deserving selection as today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

## You are invited

### Twista

Where: FOB Q-West  
When: April 14, Time TBD

### Zac Brown Band

Where: FOB Warrior, Mosul  
When: April 16-17, Time TBD

### Darryl Worley

Where: COB Speicher  
When: April 30, Time TBD

### UFC Tour

Where: COB Speicher, May 4,  
FOB Normandy and FOB Grizzly, May 5  
FOB Cobra and FOB Warhorse, May 6  
FOB Gabe/Cruz-Morris  
and Q-West, May 7  
When: Time TBD

### Phil Vandel

Where: FOB Marez, May 18  
JSS Heider and FOB Sykes, May 19  
JSS Kaiser and COB Speicher, May 21  
FOB McHenry and FOB Warrior, May 22  
When: Time TBD

## Task Force Marne Kid Hero of the North



**Reiley Terrell**, 9, is the son of Sgt. Timmy Terrell, of the 130th Engineer Brigade. He is in the 3rd grade. At Ware Elementary School on Fort Riley, Kansas, where he is an honor role student and has been since he started in February 2009.

Riley is the oldest of three children and has been the man of the house on his father's four deployments.

He enjoys racing motocross dirt bikes and even has a sponsor when he races KTM-50 Pro Senior Bikes. Reiley also plays on his school soccer team as a striker, scoring most of the points for his team.

He makes his parents proud as he grows up to be an outstanding son and big brother to his two younger siblings.

# REGIONAL HEADLINES

## Man attends 57th Masters Tournament

United Press International

**AUGUSTA, Ga.** - An 86-year-old North Carolina golf fan attending the Masters Tournament in Georgia said he has not missed one of the events in 57 years.

Hunter Gammon, 86, of Greensboro, said this year's Masters in Augusta will be the 57th consecutive event he has attended and he plans to walk the course despite the strain the golf tournament has put on his knees in recent years, WFMY-TV, Greensboro, reported April 8.

"Sitting is for football and basketball," he said. "For golf, it's walking."

Gammon, who attended his first Masters at the age of 29 in 1954, said the 11th hole is usually the most exciting of the course, while the 13th features the most beautiful view.

The golf enthusiast said he is expecting Ernie Els to win this year's Masters, but he is not discounting the possibility of Tiger Woods taking home top honors.

"I just think Tiger Woods is a great putter and that will carry him a long ways at Augusta," he said.

Gammon said his years at the tournament led him to encounter golf greats including Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus.

"I met Jack my first year there," Gammon said. "I think the most excited I was is when he won the

tournament in 1986."

## 'Glee' flash mob surprised Seattle Saturday

Seattlepi.com

**SEATTLE** - Stretch those face muscles. There was a lot of smiling in Seattle this weekend.

Several hundred people surprised passers-by downtown Saturday in what might be the biggest, most impressive flash mob the city's ever seen.

Flash mobs -- sudden outbursts of choreographed silliness in a public place -- are always good fun (well, ideally.)

But here's what's bound to make this one a hit: The crowd will not only dance, it moved to a medley of music from "Glee," the blockbuster TV show that features high-energy covers of popular songs and is about to air new episodes April 13.

"I was like, I have to go back for it. No way they're doing this without me," said Melissa Del Toro, a 36-year-old "Glee" fan and former Seattleite who's flying in from her home in Orlando, Fla., on Thursday to "gleek" out with friend Katrina Helle on Helle's birthday weekend.

"This is one of those memories I have to have -- to go to Seattle and dance in the streets," she said. "So infrequently in your life does something come around that really gets you excited."

The mob will rock out for just 3

minutes, 50 seconds at each of three secret locations. But this bit of unadulterated fun was hardly thrown together as fast. Organizers Bobby Bonsey and Egan Orion prepared for months - running rehearsals, recording instructional videos, recruiting a few professional dancers, gathering a 15-person audio-visual team and managing a central Facebook events page that today boasted more than 1,700 confirmed attendees.

"Egan and I have been scared," said Bonsey, who put on a series of 300-person "Beat It" flash mobs with Orion in August. "Three hundred was a perfect number. Six hundred would be a little crazy. One thousand is out of control."

But not in a bad way, Bonsey said with -- dare I say it -- glee.

"That's an army."

The choreography isn't tough, but it will take some practice.

Del Toro, who hasn't been to a single rehearsal, can dance it in her sleep.

"I even taught it to my little cousin," she said.

Bonsey's spent at least two hours a day for months putting this together for three reasons, he said: to make people smile.

### Anti-Kidnapping tip:

Drive with windows rolled up and doors locked. Secure outside access to gunners hatches.

### THE

## North Star

*The North Star* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of *The North Star* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 3rd Infantry Division. All editorial content of *The North Star* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Task Force Marne Public Affairs Office.

4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team,  
1st Infantry Division  
2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,  
3rd Infantry Division

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

25th Combat Aviation Brigade,  
25th Infantry Division  
130th Engineer Brigade  
135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

### TASK FORCE MARNE

Commanding General - Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo

Command Sergeant Major - Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse L. Andrews Jr.

#### Task Force Marne Public Affairs Staff

TF Marne PAO - Maj. Jeff Allen

TF Marne PA NCOIC - Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs

TF Marne Writer- Sgt. Johnathon Jobson

#### Editorial Staff

Managing Editor - Sgt. 1st Class Kelly McCargo

Editor- Spc. Michael Adams