

# The North Star

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



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## Operation Liberator II begins Massive nationwide search continues

By Spc. Cassandra Monroe  
135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Efforts to recover isolated, missing, detained and captured personnel across Iraq, are being launched through Operation Liberator II, April 15.

The Joint Inter-Agency Personnel Recovery Working Group, which is made up of all United States Forces-Iraq units, U.S. Embassy-Baghdad agencies and both U.S. and Iraqi law enforcement agencies, will be initiating the operation.

“Operation Liberator II is designed to encourage the people of Iraq to bring forth information through a series of tip-lines that are being established

“They’re citizens that were here supporting operations for their country ... it’s important that we help to bring them home to close that final chapter with their Families ...”

-Lieutenant Colonel Marvin Chavous, TF Marne personnel recovery officer

nationwide,” said Lt. Col. Marvin Chavous, the United States Division-North personnel recovery officer for Operation Liberator II and Task Force Marne. “U.S. forces have established a nationwide campaign through radio and television ads to get the word out to the Iraqi population that they would like to return these missing Americans back home to their families.”

When local citizens see these ads, they have the opportunity to respond through tip- lines that will be established throughout the country.

The numbers have been published at the national level so that anyone in any region can call a local number, said Lt. Col. Chavous. There’s also an initiative

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Photo by Spc. Michael Adams, TF Marne PAO

Corporal Eric Gillson, a chaplain's assistant with TF Marne, throws an empty water bottle into a recycling bin, at COB Speicher, April 10.

## COB Speicher implements plastic recycling program

By Spc. Michael Adams  
TF Marne PAO

Corporal Eric Gillson, of St. Paul, Minn., is always making coffee for personnel at the Task Force Marne headquarters. The 3rd ID chaplain’s assistant is happy to provide something for his fellow Soldiers.

The one thing that was upsetting him though, was that he had to throw all of the plastic water bottles, he

used to make the coffee, into the garbage can.

“I feel like it was very wasteful throwing all of those bottles away,” he added. “Throwing those bottles away hurts the environment.”

Apparently, others on Contingency Operating Base Speicher agreed and are helping Soldiers on the base to recycle so now Cpl.

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to establish a nationwide phone number that feeds into Baghdad that people can call into as well, he added. The regional and nationwide tip-lines provide continuity as some units move out of the country while others move in.

When the new units arrive, the established phone numbers and tip-lines will assist the process of finding the missing individuals.

The tip-lines will be manned by both English and Arabic speakers, ensuring that all voices are heard and all leads are answered.

Once a lead comes in, the Joint Personnel Recovery Division, at USF-I Headquarters-Baghdad, researches and investigates it to determine the validity of the information.

To ensure maximum distribution of the phone numbers, the personnel recovery team used a variety of methods to publicize it.

One of the ways the personnel recovery division circulates the information is by communicating with the Iraqi populace and security forces through key leader engagements and handing out pamphlets during missions.

One of the division's goals is to encourage the Iraqi people to disseminate the information to their family and friends, that way anyone with information about the missing individuals has the opportunity to come forward. Personnel recovery division members hope Iraqi citizens will assist in finding the missing individuals.

There are currently 16 cases of missing individuals in Iraq; one of those individuals is listed in the United States Division-North area.

"They're citizens that were here supporting operations for their country and supporting fellow Soldiers, and some were here conducting business on

behalf of American government as contractors," said Lt. Col. Chavous. "Regardless of the reason they were here, it's important that we help to bring them home to close that final chapter with their Families as U.S. forces start to drawdown and bring closure to the mission here."

During Operation Liberator I, the remains of the last missing-in-action servicemember of Operation Desert Storm, Capt. Michael Scott Speicher, were found June 20, 2009. Information gathered from these same methods, led to his recovery.

As a result of Operation Liberator I, initiated May 20, 2009, Operation Desert Storm became the first war in U.S. history without any MIAs.

During Operation Liberator II, personnel will continue to gather information for other cases in hopes of achieving positive results.

## 1/14 Cav delivers unexpected surprise

**By Spc. Ry Norris  
3SBCT, 2nd Inf Div PAO**

Eager faces peeked through the windows as the students tried to catch a glimpse of the Tibij Iraqi Police and U.S. Soldiers with 2nd Platoon, Troop C, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Stryker

Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

Tibij Iraqi Police and U.S. Troop C, 1/14 Cav. visited students at two schools bearing gifts of school supplies in Diyala province, April 7; the Andleab school, in the Albulatif village, and the Abn Baitars school, in

the Jamaylia village.

School faculty had no prior knowledge, nor the purpose, of the visit. "It's an unexpected surprise," said Vice Principal Raad Mahmoud of Abn Baitars. "Anything that will help us is very much appreciated."

This is the second time Abn Baitars have received donations.

The schools run two sessions to accommodate a vast number of students. Andleab have more than 160 children in attendance between the ages of five and 12. Abn Baitars is a secondary school with approximately 220 in attendance between the ages 13 and 18.

Each school received approximately \$1,000 in school supplies. The faculty chose one class to receive the first of the supplies.

The Tibij IP handed each child in the classroom a calculator, ruler, pencil, and notebook. "The children are

happy. That is what's important," said Mahmoud.

The schools were also given things such as white boards, markers, highlighters, and pens. These will be used and distributed throughout the school at the faculty's discretion.

"When we establish this repertoire, the people are more willing to assist us in helping them," said Spc. Mikal Rogers, a Soldier with Troop C, 1/14 Cav. "Not only will this help the kids of Iraq, it will help the country as a whole. We're here to help the future of Iraq. These kids are a part of that future."

Tibij IP and Troop C, 1/14 Cav. have conducted humanitarian missions like these only a handful of times. They hope to continue conducting missions like these in the near future in an effort to establish a relationship with the people of the region.



Photo by Spc. Ry Norris 3SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. PAO

**Staff Sergeant Mike Woodward, with 2nd Plt., Troop C, 1/14th Cav Regt., 3SBCT, 2nd ID, hands out rulers to one of the classrooms at the Andleab school, in the Albulatif village, April 7.**

## You are invited

### 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



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

*(From left to right) Major General Tony Cucolo, TF Marne commanding general, Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, TF Marne command sergeant major, join Master Sgt. Richard Montgomery, garrison directorate of logistics NCOIC, and Maj. Travis Delk, director of logistics from the 166th Regional Support Group, 1st Mission Support Group, 81st Regional Readiness Group out of Puerto Rico, cut the ribbon symbolizing the opening of the Taino Batey park on COB Speicher, April 11.*

## Continued from BOTTLE, Page 1

Gillson does not have to throw plastic water bottles into a garbage can but in a recycling bin.

Until recently, when those bottles were empty, they were thrown away and burned along with the rest of the trash on the base. Captain Calvin Fisher, of Durham, N.C., and the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone- Tikrit officer in charge is spearheading an effort to have these bottles recycled.

"This is going to benefit the COB because it tremendously reduces disposable waste we have in our landfills," he said.

A company through I-BIZ, Al-Shefar, was contracted to collect all plastic and aluminum cans on the base. The recycled goods will go to an Iraqi smelting plant where it will be used to create goods including

plastic furniture. Large blue bins scattered all over the base will hold plastic bottles and then shipped to Al-Shefar for recycling.

The program also is taking effect in the Speicher dining facilities. For those who eat in the dining facilities, leftover food must be separated from plastic before disposal.

Corporal Gillson is happy to be putting the bottles in a recycling bin instead of the trash.

"I feel good about this," he said. "I enjoy being outdoors and in nature and something like this will definitely help preserve nature."

Captain Fisher felt the program has been a success.

"The program's gone tremendously well," he said.

Captain Fisher added more units are requesting receptacles for recycling to take part in the program.



Photo by Spc. Michael Adams, TF Marne PAO

*Specialist Jane Searcy, the awards and actions clerk with TF Marne, throws her trash into a new recycling bin at the Main Dining Facility, at COB Speicher, April 12.*

### Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Private First Class Joshua Moe, of Roswell, N.M., is with 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat team, 1st Infantry Division. In addition to performing his daily team leader duties, such as pre-combat checks and inspections, physical training, and a variety of classes, he sponsored and integrated a new Soldier into the modern day battlefield. Private First Class Moe has also served as a designated marksman, Mine Resisted Ambush Protected vehicle driver, 50. Cal machine gunner, and a dismounted rifleman. He has led his team on more than 25 joint patrols with Iraqi National Police, Iraqi Police, and an Iraqi Army unit consisting of humanitarian assistance missions, Command Emergency Response Program project recons, polling site assessments, and many key leader engagements. His total dedication to the mission and his unit makes him an excellent choice for today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Karim Yousif, of Troy, Mich., is an Iraqi-American advisor with the Iraqi Atmospherics Task Force program, working with the Iraqi advisory section. His deep devotion to Task Force Marne is evident in the outstanding manner in which he completes all tasks, both assigned and implied. His intimate knowledge of much of northern Iraq makes him the go-to guy for quick responses to questions about Iraqi atmospherics, politics, and culture. He is also a behind-the-scenes facilitator for many of the cross-cultural events on Contingency Operating Base Speicher. Yousif always exceeds standards and is continually looking to improve performance in order to provide the best possible service for Task Force Marne and the Dog Face Soldiers. His actions reflect great credit upon himself, the Iraqi Atmospherics Task Force program, and make him an excellent choice for the Task Force Marne Service Provider of the Week.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE FROM WWW.PUZZLECHOICE.COM

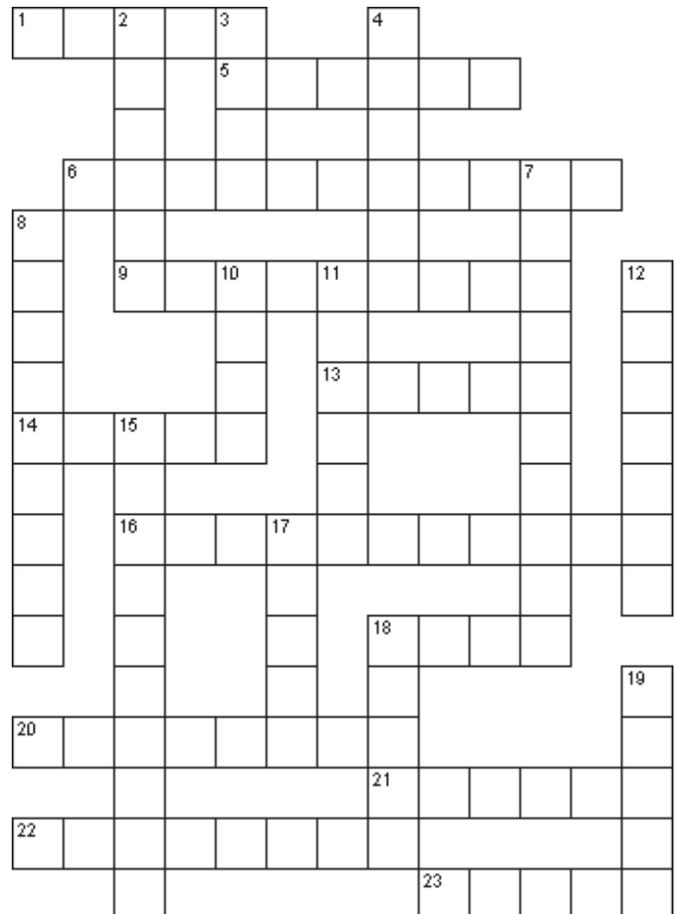
### Identify these nation's capitals

**Across**

- 1. Senegal
- 5. Canada
- 6. Tanzania
- 9. Pakistan
- 13. France
- 14. Ghana
- 16. Trinidad and Tobago
- 18. Samoa
- 20. Sudan
- 21. Turkey
- 22. Sierra Leone
- 23. Bulgaria

**Down**

- 2. Rwanda
- 3. Italy
- 4. Bahrain
- 7. Ethiopia
- 8. Romania
- 10. Peru
- 11. Mozambique
- 12. China
- 15. Denmark
- 17. Japan
- 18. Jordan
- 19. Cape Verde



# REGIONAL HEADLINES

## Buried hiker calls 911 from beneath snow

United Press International

BELLEVUE, Wash. - A hiker rescued following a Washington state avalanche said he was able to phone for help from beneath the snow.

Ian Rogers said he spent about four hours trapped beneath snow April 10 after an avalanche near Snoqualmie Pass on Granite Mountain. He was able to help rescuers determine his location by calling 911, KIRO-TV, Seattle, reported April 12.

"I was extremely lucky," Rogers told CBS's "The Early Show" in an interview from his room at Overlake Hospital in Bellevue, Wash.

"My legs were completely cramped, but I had a little ... space. It was about a foot wide."

King County sheriff's deputies said they used the location of the tower that picked up Rogers' call and information the hiker gave 911 dispatchers to find his location.

## Tax filing information

The tax filing season is over for most, but deployed servicemembers are entitled to an automatic extension of 180 days after redeployment, in order to file federal taxes. Here are some other things to consider if you have not filed yet:

FACT: If you plan to use the extension and are on Active Duty, there is no need to notify the IRS that you are deployed – they are track you.

If you are a National Guard/Reservist called on active duty you do not need to submit anything to the IRS. However, you may consider the following to ensure the IRS is tracking your deployment:

a. Contact the IRS directly by emailing: [combatzone@irs.gov](mailto:combatzone@irs.gov)

b. Mark Your Return. When filing your return, write "Combat Zone" in red at the top of the form along with the date of deployment.

FACT: The IRS, and Militaryonesource offer "freefile" programs for most service members.

Be careful, other websites may claim free preparation, but then charge to file.

-[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) click "freefile"  
-[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

For more general tax questions, contact your local Judge Advocate, Client Services office, for more information.

## Highway named for former 3rd ID battalion commander

[www.goupstate.com](http://www.goupstate.com)

CHESNEE, S.C. – On April 11, the town honored Brig. Gen. Stephen Twitty, former 3rd Bn., 15th Inf., 3rd ID, battalion commander, and 3rd ID G3 (June 2001 to 2004) by naming a 4.4-mile stretch of Highway 11, from the Chesnee city limits near the Cherokee County border to Parris Bridge Road, "General Stephen M. Twitty Highway."

Family, friends, Chesnee High Junior ROTC cadets and state, county

and local dignitaries filled the Chesnee high school auditorium during his tribute. "I accept this great honor, but I come here seeking no fanfare at all," Brig. Gen. Twitty said.

"I don't want you to think about me as you look at this sign every day. What I really want you to think about are all those men and women who are serving abroad who are protecting this country every day."

## TF Marne Kids Zone

The Task Force Marne website's Kids Zone is nearly complete - the only thing missing is YOU! Marne 6 is encouraging all personnel serving in Task Force Marne, to send something out to that special battle-buddy waiting stateside for you. This site will host your Kid Shout Outs, photos of you and video of you reading to your child! Your Family can also learn about Marne Kid Heroes of the North. Visit <http://www.stewart.army.mil/tfm/kid-szone/default.asp> and enjoy!

## Anti-Kidnapping tip:

Become familiar with normal activity in your immediate patrol area. Report all suspicious or unusual activity to your chain of command.

## THE North Star

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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

## 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

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