

The North Star

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



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U.S. forces help rebuild Iraqi Air Force



Photo by Sgt Jessica Rohr, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Chris Breffitt, an instructor pilot with 52nd EFTS, inspects the Hawker Beechcraft T-6 aircraft as Iraqi Air Force Lt. Col. Rased Sedeek enters the cockpit for a training flight, March 31. Lieutenant Colonel Sedeek is training at COB Speicher.

By Sgt. Jessica Rohr
135th Mobile PA Det.

Iraqi Air Force pilots train with the U.S. Air Force 52nd Expeditionary Flying Training Squadron to rebuild and regain air sovereignty.

The Iraqi Air Force College opened its doors at Contingency Operating Base Speicher with the support of the 52nd EFTS instructor pilots, March 11.

A small group of Iraqi pilots were selected by Iraqi Air Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Anwer Hamad Amen Ahmed to conduct training with the 52nd EFTS at COB Speicher. The pi-

lots ranged from new first lieutenants, who have only been flying for the last three years, to lieutenant colonels with 28 years of experience.

To implement this program, the Iraqi Air Force purchased a total of 15 Hawker Beechcraft T-6 military trainer aircraft, eight of which are currently at COB Speicher.

The training consisted of eight days of academics, including an introductory level systems class combined with formation and aerobatics maneuvering, according to Lt. Col. Jeffrey Myer, operations officer of the 52nd Expedi-

tionary Flying Training Squadron.

"These classes prepared them for the six flights with the 52nd EFTS pilots. The flights allow the Iraqi pilots to witness firsthand what the planes are capable of," said Lt. Col. Myer.

The Iraqi Air Force pilots selected to go through the training play a vital role in their country's future.

"When the Iraqi instructor pilots graduate, these pilots can begin training our cadet pilots," said Lt. Gen. Anwer. "It is very important for us that

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3rd ID Soldier shows appreciation for spouse's support



Photo by Sgt Jessica Rohr, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det. **Sergeant First Class Helen Foster, Human Resources NCOIC for DSTB, 3rd ID, poses next to her Family photos.**

By Sgt. Jessica Rohr
135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

When Soldiers are deployed, their spouses can be challenged to face new tasks they haven't handled in the past. Taking care of children and the household alone are a few examples of what spouses face during their loved ones' deployment.

Sergeant First Class Helen Foster, the noncommissioned officer in charge of Human Resources, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Ga., reflects on her Family back home in Apple Valley, Minn., as May 7, Spouse Appreciation Day, nears.

Her husband of 20 years, David Foster, has taken on many new responsibilities. Sergeant First Class Foster makes a conscious effort to

communicate with him whenever possible to thank him for his hard work.

"He always wants me to call, e-mail or Skype with him," said Sgt. 1st Class Foster. "At the beginning part of the deployment I was having a hard time doing that, only because I was wrapped up in work. I am getting a little bit better at [communicating], and I always thank him for what a great job he has been doing. I talk to him about three times a week on the phone, Skype two times a week and I am trying to e-mail him every day [to show my appreciation]."

Showing appreciation almost certainly helps spouses as they take on all the daily household tasks on their own.

Mr. Foster is keeping things in order back home with their two daughters, Kayla, 11, and Elisabeth, 18, while his wife is deployed to Iraq. This is the first time she has been away from her Family for an extended period of time, and Mr. Foster has had to learn some new techniques to manage this increased reasonability.

"Priorities," said Mr. Foster. "I have to manage it all alone, and I keep it all smooth [by] setting priorities."

To help alleviate the stress of dealing with the responsibilities alone, neighbors, Becky and Marty Bonnell, have been there to support Mr. Foster. The Bonnell's take the youngest daughter out to the movies or do "mother-daughter" type activities in Sgt. 1st Class Foster's absence.

Balancing children, maintaining a full-time job as a warehouse supervisor, cooking dinner, and making time for his wife already consumed Mr. Fos-

ter on a normal day. Now, he must accomplish all his wife's duties, as well.

"There are a lot of role reversals after having been married for almost 20 years," said Sgt. 1st Class Foster. "He's relied on me to do a lot of this stuff. He's always let me handle the grocery shopping, or he does the outside housework while I did the inside housework."

In preparation for her deployment, Sgt. 1st Class Foster taught her husband the basic skills needed to do her share of the chores. On-line bill paying was one of a few important tasks transferred between the two of them.

Mr. Foster had to take on the responsibility of everything, as he listed his daily duties, "My kids, laundry, cooking, grocery shopping, household shopping, mail, bills, yard work and a full-time job, just to mention a few."

Sergeant First Class Foster has a new-found appreciation for her husband's support and willingness to care for their Family.

"I would like to let my husband know that he is doing a terrific job taking care of everything," she said.

"I appreciate her support," said Mr. Foster. "I do everything I can to keep things running smooth so she can focus on her mission."

Sergeant First Class Foster feels all spouses are doing an "amazing job" in their partners' absence by taking care of children, pets, bills and keeping up with the house.

"They are just doing a terrific job taking on all of this - the extra stuff that their spouses normally handle when they are there," said Sgt. 1st Class Foster.

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we can depend on ourselves after 2011, for training our pilots for our future."

"Overall, this helps with the military drawdown," he added. "And the goal there again is that the Iraqis need to provide for their own defense," said Lt. Col. Myer.

"Just as we have been training their forces on the ground ... the Iraqis are ready to take the lead on defending their air space. In doing so, it reduces the need for us to provide that protec-

tion in their air space, allowing us to withdraw or reduce our air footprint here in Iraq."

"As the Iraqi Air Force, we are moving in the right direction," said Iraqi Air Force 1st Lt. Harith Nabil Abdulkader, an Iraqi Air Force College student. "This is one of the babysteps into the right direction. I am very happy to be one of the first pilots to go through this course."

"What we (the 52nd EFTS and Iraqi

Air Force) are doing right now lends itself to the government of Iraq being stable in the future," said Lt. Col. Trey Westbrook, 52nd Expeditionary Flying Training Squadron commander.

"It lends itself for the people of Iraq to be a sovereign nation, to defend them and to move forward into a world where they are now a free democracy that can stand on its own two feet. So it is very exciting to be a part of that history."

Spartan Soldier leads in fire fight

By Master Sgt. Duff McFadden
2BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

On Jan. 19, Sgt. John Z. Snell, with 1st Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, was on a dismounted security patrol in Ashura, Iraq. The Alpha Company commander was nearby in a building talking with the Ashura mayor.

Suddenly, seven insurgents opened fire on the Soldiers with AK-47 rifles. Sergeant Snell had three Soldiers with him, as well as the company commander's personal security detachment, who were left in an exposed fighting position.

"My first thought was to return fire," said Sgt. Snell. "My second conscious decision was the fact those exposed individuals didn't need to be out there in this fight. We destroyed two insurgents, suppressed their fire and engaged them, so those Soldiers could get under cover.

"I was standing in the entrance of the mayor's house. I returned fire and the humvee crew also returned fire with their crew-served weapons. We checked for casualties, and then pursued the bad guys," he said.

After the remaining insurgents escaped, the unit performed a cordon and search of the city and its 50,000 residents. Although nothing turned up, the team did receive a few confidential tips. According to sources, two of the violent extremists died from their wounds and the others left Ashura to escape the heat from the incident.

"Basically, everyone reacted as they should have. It all worked out for the best for us and for the worst for them. It couldn't have worked out any better. I'm just thankful I was there, so I could take care of my guys," he said.

Sergeant Snell is currently on his third deployment, having deployed with the division to Baghdad as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom III and V. This was the first time, on this current deployment, he's come under fire. However, he's has previously earned a Combat Action Badge.

What made this attack different, Sgt. Snell said, was the proximity of

the individuals when they began firing at the U.S. Soldiers.

"They were not more than 25 meters from us. They came right up to us, pulled their ski masks down, and started firing. I didn't think they could get that close without anything happening. It just shocked me," he said. Once the bullets started flying, it "was definitely all reflex. I was outside, pinned down under fire, and returned fire. Following their initial fire, we destroyed two of them and were able to get our other Soldiers back under cover.

"Within the first two to three seconds of the attack, it seemed we were going through the motions, everything was instinctive. Time definitely slowed down for that first two to three seconds," he said.

According to Sgt. Snell, whose highest award to date was an Army Commendation Medal, it was a "pretty outstanding" honor to be recommended for the award by his company and battalion commanders, but it hadn't quite hit him yet.

"I didn't really realize the importance of this award. My mom and sister are Google champions and they looked it up. They told me it's not an everyday award. I didn't realize it until then. I'm pretty proud to be in that company"

He noted his wife is aware of the

award, but he doesn't talk to her about what happened.

Sergeant Snell has been on several patrols since this incident. "Basically you're a little more elevated and you have more situational awareness.

You're not more on edge, but rather more attentive. I'm definitely more aware of my surroundings."

"Sergeant Snell is a very good NCO, who's technically and tactically sound and is very solid, both Soldier and personal wise," said Sgt. Bryant Adams, his platoon sergeant and a resident of Portsmouth, Va. "His situational awareness is pretty good. I knew what he was capable of doing.

"He's very good at situations like that, of doing the right thing upon a split second notice. That's his forte," he added.

Sergeant Snell, a resident of Boise, Idaho, attended Borah High School in Idaho. A six-year veteran, he hopes to continue to serve in the military, becoming a drill sergeant once he returns from this deployment.

He was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor medal, April 27, by Army Chief of Staff, Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., at Contingency Operating Site Diamondback.

The Task Force commander and command sergeant major, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo and Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews were in attendance.



Photo by Spc. Gregory Gieske, 2BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO
Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., presents Sgt. John Z. Snell the Bronze Star with Valor, during a ceremony at COS Diamondback, April 27.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Specialist Jesus Inzunza, of Tucson, Ariz., is with Company B, 209th Aviation Support Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. He is a valued UH-60 helicopter phase team member who is charged with conducting both scheduled phase and unscheduled maintenance. Recently, Spc. Inzunza used his sound knowledge of aircraft maintenance to simplify the installation of helicopter input modules. He independently developed a method that allowed the newest version of the input modules to be installed with ease and efficiency, streamlining this rigorous task. His method trimmed an average of three-man hours off the installation time per airframe. In addition, Spc. Inzunza continuously leads his peers and provides mentorship to his less experienced Soldiers, ensuring they understand the importance of their duties. He maintains a superior physical fitness level and always sets the example with his "Can-Do" attitude. His motivation and dedication to duty has contributed immeasurably to the mission success of his unit earning him the distinction of selection as today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



John Saulsbury, of Oklahoma City, is an accomplished food service professional, with persistent drive and a contagious work ethic. He joined the North Dining Facility food service team in April 2003 and enjoys serving troops and civilians that dine in the North Dining Facility. His ability to manage a dining facility and provide technical guidance to multi-national subcontract workers is without peer. Saulsbury oversees the feeding of more than 7,000 Task Force Marne personnel daily and takes great satisfaction in seeing war fighters enjoying their meal and leaving totally satisfied. His service to the nation, and it's deployed sons and daughters, marks him as a true patriot. For these reasons, Saulsbury is most deserving of the title of this week's Task Force Marne Service Provider of the Week.

Name the famous mom

Identify the mother on the following TV shows.

1. Happy Days
2. That 70's Show
3. Home Improvement
4. Cosby Show
5. Married With Children
6. Leave It To Beaver
7. The Simpsons
8. Family Guy
9. I Love Lucy
10. Mama's Family
11. Everyone Loves Raymond
12. Who's the Boss? -
13. Good Times
14. Growing Pains
15. The Facts of Life
16. The Jefferson's
17. The Brady Bunch
18. All In The Family
19. Fresh Prince Of Bel Air
20. Dick Van Dyke Show
21. Family Ties
22. The Addams Family
23. The Partridge Family
24. What's Happening!!
25. Seinfeld
26. Alf

E-mail your answers to 3id-g1-awards-actions@3id.army.mil. First two to submit all of the answers correctly will win a four-day pass to Freedom Rest.



Safety Thought of the Week: Overhead Wire Mitigation Kits

- Attach non-metal joining/base brackets by bolting to existing connections on Mine Resisted Ambush Protected Vehicles
- Use fiberglass or polyvinyl chloride (PVC) for structural support
- Ensure any metal used in Overhead Wire Mitigation (OWM) systems does not extend above antenna base flange
- Do not attach OWM systems to Counter Radio-controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare (CREW) antennas or use CREW antennas for structural support
- Use fiberglass, PVC, or thick nylon/Dacron rope as the OWM spanning mechanism
- Ensure wood structural supports are at least 12" behind, 16" to the side, and 24" in front of CREW antennas
- Do not use wire cage/wire mesh materials for Gunner Cupola Covers; use PVC, fiberglass, or wood to construct the frame; covered by radar-transparent netting.



REGIONAL HEADLINES

Boy with cancer turns into a superhero for a day

Seattle Times

SEATTLE - April 28 was shaping up to be just another school day for 13-year-old Erik Martin, but then something extraordinary happened: Spider-Man called.

Spider-Man happens to be one of the few people who knows that Erik, too, has a secret identity — he's Electron Boy, a superhero who fights the powers of evil with light.

And Spider-Man needed Erik's help. Erik, who has been living with liver cancer, has always wanted to be a superhero.

On April 29, the regional chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation granted him that wish with an elaborate event that involved hundreds of volunteers in Bellevue and Seattle.

The local chapter, which serves four states, grants more than 300 wishes every year to children with life-threatening conditions, but only a few involve so many participants.

Pulling off a wish like this one required a big story, and a lot of heart. And, with a note of panic in his voice, Spider-Man explained the dilemma: "Dr. Dark" and "Blackout Boy" had imprisoned the Seattle Sounders in a locker room at Qwest Field. Only Electron Boy could free them.

Erik got into his red-and-blue superhero costume, and called on the powers of Moonshine Maid, who owns a DeLorean sports car.

"They shut down 405 — they shut down I-90," marveled Moonshine Maid, aka Misty Peterson.

At Qwest Field, Electron Boy was directed by frantic fans to the Sounders locker room, where the entire team was shouting for help behind jammed doors.

With a little help from Lightning Lad, the alter ego of local actor Rob Burgess, Erik opened the door with his lightning rod. The Sounders cheered.

"Thank you, Electron Boy," said defender Taylor Graham.

"You saved us!" exclaimed forward Nate Jaqua.

"Good job, big man," said defender Tyrone Marshall. And forward Steve Zakuani mutely bowed his thanks.

Judy Martin said Erik goes to school when he's able, but is often too tired.

"He hasn't had this much energy in a long time," she said. "They called it the power of the wish, and they're right."

Like any good superhero, Electron Boy kept his innermost thoughts to himself.

But he did have one important thing to say:

"This is the best day of my life."

College student bought to court in chains for missing jury duty

Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON - A 19-year-old college freshman missed class April 27 when

a federal judge decided to teach her a civics lesson by ordering federal marshals to haul her in chains from school to court to explain why she shirked jury duty.

Kelsey Gloston stood in ankle and wrist restraints in court April 27 wearing flip flops, a tight white T-shirt, short-shorts and sporting green streaks in her hair.

Though she rolled her eyes and looked impatient while waiting for the judge, once U.S. District Judge David Hittner took the bench her tears flowed.

Darrell Gloston, the student's father, said he plans to sue.

He said his daughter went to the doctor because her ankles were bleeding and bruised from the ankle restraints and he said he's in shock that a judge would do this to a college freshman.

"Don't treat her like she murdered 25 people along the freeway," he said. "She's 19, she's ignorant, she's a kid. They don't take anything seriously."

You are invited

TF Marne Mass Re-enlistment

Where: COB Speicher Stadium
When: May 7, 9 a.m.

Anti-Kidnapping tip:

Avoid complacency. Seize opportunities to better prepare you and your battle buddy.

THE North Star

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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
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