

# The North Star

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



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## 46 TF Marne Soldiers choose to stay Army

By Sgt. Johnathon Jobson  
TF Marne PAO

Task Force Marne commander, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, and his senior enlisted adviser, Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, re-enlisted 46 Soldiers from various units within the task force during a mass re-enlistment ceremony, May 7, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

All 46 Soldiers signed their new contracts while serving in Iraq, recognizing that even though they are putting their lives on the line each day, serving in the Army is still what they want to do.

Specialist April Moreland, a supply specialist for Task Force Odin (Forward), was one of the re-enlistees who participated in the ceremony.

"There is more I want to do in the Army; more goals I want to reach," Spc. Moreland said. "My [re-enlistment] window opened and it was the perfect opportunity."

Private First Class Brandon Potts, an infantry mortarman for Company A, 5th Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, had similar reasons for re-enlisting and continuing to serve his country.

"I feel that I still have a lot left in my career and there is more that I want to do for the Army," explained Pfc. Potts. "I have always wanted to be in the infantry, this was a dream that I actually got to do."

In his speech, Maj. Gen. Cucolo reminded the Soldiers that the freedoms Americans enjoy are made possible by those who wear the uniforms of the U.S.



Photo by Sgt. Johnathon Jobson, TF Marne PAO

**Major General Tony Cucolo, the commanding general of TF Marne, administers the Oath of Enlistment to 46 Soldiers during a mass re-enlistment ceremony, May 7, as Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, the task force command sergeant major, recites the oath along with the Soldiers.**

Armed Services, and the jobs they do.

"It's Friday, back home there will be baseball games, high school proms, people ending their workweek and looking forward to their weekend routine," said Maj. Gen. Cucolo.

All of that can take place in a peaceful and secure setting because of us, because of you, because of American volunteers; highly trained and skilled with arms and dedicated to defending a body of ideals known as the Constitution.

"So when you recite that oath today, listen to those words and recommit to those words.

"Take pride in who you are, American Soldiers, because what you are doing in your life matters."

Following the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Cucolo and Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews took time to speak with each Soldier individually and take a photo as they were presenting them with a certificate.

Having Maj. Gen. Cucolo administer the Oath of Enlistment at the ceremony was an honor for the troops.

"The ceremony today was awesome. I think that it is great that the CG took time out to acknowledge everybody who decided to re-enlist over here," expressed Spc. Moreland.

"Most people don't do that, either they are too busy or they say 'your unit can handle that.' He said 'let me free up this moment and help these Soldiers out.'"

# Day of prayer demonstrates diversity of faith

By Maj. Jeff Allen  
TF Marne PAO

Dozens of Task Force Marne Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and civilians gathered in a meeting room of one of Contingency Operating Base Speicher's dining facilities Thursday to observe this year's National Day of Prayer luncheon.

The gathering of praying faithful came to this chaplain-sponsored event to share a meal, learn more about some of the world's great faiths, and to participate in a series of prayers for the Nations, Families, and Task Force Marne. During the service representatives from Catholicism, Orthodox Christianity, the Gospel tradition, Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism, shared their faiths in the form of prayer or meditation.

Attendees were exposed to the world's most practiced religions and their faith traditions in a way they may not have normally been exposed to. This exposure was the intent of the chaplains who coordinated this effort.

"We wanted to put on a program that was informative and educational; by bringing together individuals from diverse faith groups, so the audience could see and learn from these great Americans," said Chaplain (Maj.) William Killough, the Task Force Marne deputy division chaplain.

The chaplains also wanted to make sure the program included as many laypersons as possible.

They didn't want the event to be exclusively run by unit chaplains.

"You don't have to be a seminary-trained individual in order to have faith in your God, nor do you have to have that education to communicate it clearly," said Chaplain (Maj.) Killough.

One chaplain who did participate was Chaplain (1st Lt.) Thomas Dyer, Regimental Support Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee National Guard. He is the first and only Buddhist chaplain in the United States Army.

During his portion of the program, Chaplain (1st Lt.) Dyer talked about his meditation techniques and explained a few of the principles behind

Buddhism.

He later expressed how much he appreciated having the opportunity to see how important the freedom of religious expression is to servicemembers.

"Being invited to participate in the National Day of Prayer luncheon suggests that we want all Soldiers to have their First Amendment rights, and all Soldiers to have the opportunity to worship in the manner that is meaningful to them," said Chaplain (1st Lt.) Dyer.

According to the National Day of Prayer Task Force Web site ([www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org)) the day was first established by a joint resolution of Congress and signed by President Harry Truman in 1952.

Since then it has been an annual observance, with the sitting President calling on the nation to pray every year since 1975.

The Task Force Marne observance concluded with a series of group prayers offered by military volunteers, and a chaplain-led benediction. Those in attendance walked away from the luncheon with more than just a full stomach. For some, the experience was much more fulfilling.

Major Luke Wilder, a deputy plans

officer with Task Force Marne, enjoyed having the opportunity to practice his own faith through prayer, but said he received an education he wasn't expecting.

"I enjoyed meeting the Buddhist chaplain. He gave me one of the best explanations of Nirvana I ever had," Maj. Wilder said.

Other presenters during the National Day of Prayer luncheon were:

Other presenters during the National Day of Prayer luncheon were: Lt. Col. Matthew Mednick, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, (Judaism); Chaplain (Capt.) Kevin Milsaps, 3rd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, (Orthodox Christianity); Chaplain (Capt.) Arek Ochalek, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division (Catholicism); Spc. Christopher Benjamin, 209th Aviation Support Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (Islam); Spc. Cassie Jackson, 701st Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (Gospel).

*May is Asian/Pacific  
Heritage month*



Photo by David Patton

Members of Task Force Marne pray during the observation of National Day of Prayer, May 6, at COB Speicher.



# Spartan Soldier inducted into SAMC

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

“You have to believe in yourself and go in there with the mentality ‘You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.’”

-Sergeant Sandra Ospina, 2nd BCT, 3rd ID

Since 1986, with the establishment of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, the U.S. Army has recognized noncommissioned officers who have displayed the leadership abilities and personal ethics exemplified by Audie L. Murphy, the 3rd Infantry Division's World War II Medal of Honor winner and America's most decorated war hero.

The Fort Stewart Sergeant Audie Murphy Club members were selected based on demonstrated leadership, professionalism, and overall general military knowledge.

Sergeant Sandra M. Ospina Velez, a military police with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, is the newest member of this time-honored organization.

She now joins her platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Odle and HHC 1st Sgt. Matthew L. Chase, as the only other Sergeant Audie Murphy Club members within the 2-3 BTB.

The 33-year old, former native of Colombia, South America, said she wanted to attend the Audie Murphy Board ever since she became sergeant.

After competing and losing at the Brigade NCO of the Quarter board, she felt she could do better.

“I told my first sergeant I wanted to go before the Audie Murphy board and he said, ‘Yes, you’re going in April.’ I’d been studying, delving into the books and learning all I could about

Audie Murphy and the club. The more I learned, the more I wanted to become a part of it.”

It became a passion for the Elizabeth, N.J., resident.

“Once I knew I was going, I started reading everything I could about him. I memorized his biography. I bought his movie, ‘To Hell and Back.’ I saw where he started from, his life, his childhood. What he did as a private was amazing. He was the greatest combat Soldier in the history of the U.S. Army.

“And it’s not just what he did as a Soldier, but as a civilian, as an actor, as well. He was a man with a lot of talent. He wasn’t afraid to explore that talent and work for what he wanted to gain.” It was an honor, she said, to sit in that chair in front of that board.

“They put you under a lot of stress to see if you can manage to do what you do under pressure. English isn’t my first language. When I get nervous, I tend to speak in ‘Spanglish.’ However, I was able to control myself and answer the questions with no problem.

“You have to believe in yourself and go in there with the mentality ‘You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.’ The bottom line is you’re not going up there for yourself. Your Soldiers are the ones who put you there. Your Soldiers are your credentials.”

She said it was those Soldiers – Sgt. Orlando Lott, Spc. John Woerner and Spc.

Justin Watson – who helped make it possible with their support and assistance.

While she’s been a sergeant since 2005, she said she’s now ready to be promoted and to see her other Soldiers get promoted to sergeant.

Sergeant Ospina joined the Army when she was 24 years old, but “wished I had joined at 18.”

After working as a government sales person for a micro semi-conductor company in Madison, N.J., Sgt. Ospina didn’t like the thought of where she’d be in 10 years – working in the same office and doing the same thing.

“I’m the type of person who likes variety. The Army has its routine, but there’s something different each day.

The Army isn’t a boring job. I wanted to do something different, something adventurous.”

She originally joined as a chemical operations specialist. However, each time she deployed, she said she was doing things a brigade MP would do, such as patrols, convoy escort, and checkpoint operations. So, she switched to military police.

This is her fourth deployment.

“I’m hardcore, a hard charger,” the feisty, 5 feet 1 inch tall Soldier said. “I don’t back down from anything. Females have a bad rap. As a female, you face many big challenges. You have to do everything and you have to work harder



Photo by Master Sgt. Duff McFadden,  
2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

**Sergeant Sandra M. Ospina Velez, an MP with HHC, 2-3 BTB, 2nd BCT, 3rd ID, is the newest member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.**

than everyone else to prove yourself on a daily basis.”

She is married to another 3rd ID Soldier, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Ospina, Company B, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, stationed at Joint Security Station in Tal Abatah, Iraq. Her future goals are to either attend Drill Sergeant School, or become a member of the Army Criminal Investigation Command.

She recently received orders to Hawaii, where she’ll be stationed at Schofield Barracks, with her husband at Camp Smith following their Iraq deployment.

This, she said, is a bitter-sweet development.

“I’ve been at Fort Stewart with the 3rd ID all my Army career. It’s the only thing I know. I’m a Dog Face Soldier for life. This is my home,” she said with a sigh.

## Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Sergeant Eric Hayes, of St. Louis, is with the 130th Engineer Brigade. His performance and dedication to his unit and mission have truly been exceptional. For the past eight months, Sgt. Hayes has maintained an error-free communications security account with the land owning unit and has recently assumed the video teleconferencing duties and forward signal support for the brigade commander's security team. His attention to detail, technical knowledge, and accomplishments make him a significant contributing member in support of the 130th Engineer Brigade's mission. Sergeant Hayes exemplifies the Army value of selfless service by performing his daily responsibilities honorably, ensuring the continuous support of signal services. His drive, commitment, care, and selfless contribution to the section's successful mission accomplishment make him a most deserving selection for today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Specialist Claudette Gonzalez Kauai Kona, Hawaii, is with 3rd Battalion, 25th General Support Aviation Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. She is dedicated to mission accomplishment and has proven to be a vital asset within the Hammerhead Battalion. She was chosen above her peers to perform duties as a liaison for her unit at the Speicher Arrival / Departure Airfield Control Group. She has assisted with the coordination for movement of more than 2 million pounds of cargo and more than 30,000 passengers. She has been commended numerous times for her customer service skills by civilian and military personnel alike. In addition, Spc. Gonzalez conducts flight operations specialist duties for her battalion. She assists with the maintenance and upkeep of approximately 300 flight records for pilots and crew chiefs within her brigade. She is a stellar Soldier and always willing to help others. Specialist Gonzales' dedication to mission accomplishment marks her as an outstanding Soldier and has earned her the title of today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

## Last chance to win a four-day pass to Freedom Rest in honor of mothers.

### 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](mailto: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.



## What's the hidden message?

Find all of the words on the list in the puzzle. Cross out the words as you find them. Then, going from the top left corner of the puzzle and continuing horizontally through each row, circle all of the letters that are not crossed out. Next, put the letters (in the exact order that you circled them in) into the spaces below the word search. When you have put all of the letters in the spaces, you will be able to read the hidden message!

The first two to send in the correct answer to: [3id-g1-awards-actions@3id.army.mil](mailto:3id-g1-awards-actions@3id.army.mil) will win a 4-day pass to Freedom Rest on COB Speicher.

Accepting  
Admire  
Adore  
Amazing  
Appreciate  
Beautiful  
Caring  
Compassionate  
Considerate  
Dedicated  
Genuine  
Great  
Honest  
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Understanding  
Thoughtful  
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Romantic  
Respect  
Patient  
Irresistible

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# REGIONAL HEADLINES

## Poll: Most momma's boys in the South

Atlanta Journal Constitution

ATLANTA - File this under "We can't believe they did a survey to tell us this."

An online poll revealed something many women have always known. The South is home to more Momma's Boys than anywhere else.

A coupon Web site asked men aged 25 and up about their mothers just in time for Sunday's holiday. Grown men in Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Georgia are more likely than those anywhere else to talk to mom every day.

Maybe it's a phone call or a text or an e-mail. But southern gentlemen remain loyal to the ones that brought them into the world.

As the wife of one of these Momma's Boys, this reporter doesn't think it's necessarily a bad label for men.

You can, after all, tell a lot about a man by the way he treats his mother.

Let's hope he mailed her Mother's Day card.

## Fort Worth Goodwill showcases 'rogue gallery' of odd donations

Dallas Morning News

FORT WORTH, Texas – Everything was in place. The dummies had been inflated, the fertility god was ready for action and the hand grenade rested

next to the urn.

David Cox stood back from his handiwork and smiled.

The marketing director had been trying to get local media interested in "Goodwill Industries Week" for more than a decade.

Every May, he sent out a news release promoting some clothing-donation drive or talking up the thousands of people who benefit from the nonprofit's job training and placement services.

"We got no bites for as long as I can remember," he said.

This year, Cox put his head together with a PR firm and came up with Goodwill's first "rogue gallery" – a collection of the strangest donations received at its 17 retail stores in the Fort Worth area.

The plan worked. Local TV, radio and print outlets were all over the agency's headquarters this week to see what horrors good will had wrought.

Mounted on a tripod at the center of the gallery was a mannequin of – well, it's hard to say of what. An old woman? A wizard?

"We have no idea," said Cox. "Our theory is it's a Santa Claus without a beard."

Finally, the grenade.

"We get 'em all the time," said Ed Lynn, Goodwill's security chief.

The majority are inert, but Lynn remembers being handed one that "made a little noise" when he shook it.

He gave it to his son, a former Marine, to disarm.

## You are invited

### Post 9/11 GI Bill Transferability Briefing

Where: North MWR  
When: May 13, 2 - 4 p.m.  
May 14, 6 - 8 p.m.

### TF Marne Asian/Pacific Heritage Month Celebration

Where: D-Main, COB Speicher  
When: May 21, 11:30 a.m.

### DSTB Asian/Pacific Heritage Luncheon

Where: Main Dining Facility  
When: May 25, 11 a.m.  
Ticket raffle for 2011 Pro Bowl and other prizes

### TF Marne Volleyball Competition

Where: Freedom Rest,  
COB Speicher  
When: May 27-28

### 25th CAB Asian/Pacific Heritage Ceremony

Where: South MWR  
When: May 28, 5:30 p.m.

### Run for the Warriors Marathon

Where: COB Speicher Stadium  
When: May 30, registration is from 5 - 5:35 a.m.  
5K walk begins at 6 a.m.,  
10K run begins at 6:30 a.m.  
To register early, e-mail woundedwarrior10K4hope@yahoo.com  
Early registration is recommended.

## Anti-Kidnapping tip:

When possible, keep a 'professional distance' from local nationals.

## 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

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