

The North Star

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



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TF Marne remembers fallen warriors

By Spc. Jessica Zullig
135th Mobile PA Det.

Task Force Marne Soldiers and civilians stationed at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, gathered at Division Main in observance of Memorial Day, May 31.

The observance included a memorial video, wreath laying, 21-gun salute, and roll call of 18 fallen TF Marne warriors who died supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom 10-12.

"We're here today to celebrate the sacrifices made by American Soldiers throughout our nation's history but in particular during our deployment here in Iraq," said Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Donahue, II, a Fort Bragg, N.C., native and TF Marne deputy commanding general Maneuver. "It's important to remember sacrifices made by these men and women, who have given everything for their country. If we don't celebrate them, we forget, and we'll take for granted the sacrifices they made."

Every individual has their own perception of what Memorial Day means. For Brig. Gen. Donahue, it means having the chance to remember the men and women he has served with and reflect upon his own actions in the mili-

tary.

"I remember how important it is; the job I do every day is to make sure I get everything I can to make our Soldiers successful – they can successfully do their job without having to give their lives," he said.

For Sgt. 1st Class Sonya Helring, an Ottawa, Ill., native and intelligence operations noncommissioned officer in charge for Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, the observance was a moment for her to remember the sacrifices made by servicemembers before her.

"That's why we're here," she said. "They laid the foundation for us so we can continue a good fight in remembrance of them. It's a day for us to sit back and reflect on their ultimate sacrifice, remember why we're here doing what we do and to continue the tradition of providing freedom."

Families and friends of servicemembers who celebrate Memorial Day at home have a special place in each Soldier's heart because of the support they show for



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

Task Force Marne Soldiers present arms after performing a 21-gun salute during a Memorial Day observance at TF Marne Headquarters, at COB Speicher, May 31.

See FALLEN, Page 3

130th Eng. Bde. ends tour in Iraq

By Pfc. Jennifer L. Montagna
130th Eng. Bde. PAO

The 130th Engineer Brigade, from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, cased their colors in a ceremony May 29, on Contingency Operating Site Marez.

The ceremony signified the end of the 130th Eng. Bde.'s, tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 130th Eng. Bde., fell under the control of the 25th Infantry Division, out of Schofield Barracks, when they began their deployment at COS Marez in June 2009, and completed their service under the 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Ga.

During their tour, the 130th Eng. Bde., ensured mobility of travel through route clearance, and embedded Soldiers with Iraqi Security Forces to create an essential partnership for training; and partnered with the Government of Iraq for the reconstruction of the Ninewa province.

The Ninewa Reconstruction Cell, of the 130th Eng. Bde., focused on projects that positively affected the people of the Ninewa province, including more than \$24 million worth of projects that focused on areas of clean water and electricity distribution.

"You all should be proud of the enduring, positive legacy you've left here in Iraq," said Brig. Gen. Tom Vandal, the Task Force Marne deputy commanding general for Support, at the ceremony. "You've helped to start

restoring Mosul to the greatness that it once was."

Key leaders in the Iraqi Army also attended the ceremony to express their appreciation and gratitude to the 130th Eng. Bde.

"Thank you for giving us the chance to say goodbye to our friends, the 130th Eng. Bde. We will never forget the 130th and all they've done, and I'm sure every honorable citizen in the Ninewa province will not forget you and your efforts to bring the electricity and water to them. I hope you all return home safe and then next time you come to Iraq it is as a civilian with your Families to visit," said the 2nd Iraqi Army Division commander, while presenting Col. Fabian E. Mendoza, the 130th Eng. Bde. commander a plaque in gratitude and thanks.

Colonel Mendoza addressed his unit with humble words.

"I'm overwhelmed with pride for your

accomplishments. It's amazing what you've done in a year. Our pride lies in being a small aspect in this partnership with the Iraqi Army brigades. Our partnership with the Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiments is something I respect and am so thankful to be a part of - stay focused and God Speed," he said.

Following the ceremony, the 130th and their guest mingled and shared stories of the past year together while saying their goodbyes and reminiscing about their year spent in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Pfc. Jennifer L. Montagna, 130th Eng. Bde. PAO

The 130th Eng. Bde. commander Col. Faibian E. Mendoza Jr. and Command Sgt. Maj. Dale A. Moran, 130th command sergeant major, roll their unit flag during a color casing ceremony, May 29, at COS Marez.

Speicher Soldiers compete in soccer tournament

By Spc. Michael Adams
TF Marne PAO

Private First Class Cherie Johnson, a paralegal specialist with Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, started playing soccer when she was 17.

When her favorite soccer player, Zinedine Zidane won the World Cup with France in 1998, it made her so fascinated with soccer, she started going to parks and

kicking the ball around in her hometown, Port More, Jamaica. Currently, she lives in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She is one of many Soldiers and civilians who organized the 2010 Speicher Soccer Tournament on Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

Such events serve as a diversion for Soldiers doing their job while stationed at COB Speicher.

"It keeps their mind off

of being here in Iraq," said Torin Berryhill, of Houston, and a Morale, Welfare and Recreation technician, who helped the soccer players to organize the current tournament. "A lot of them go out of the wire and these games are a way to forget things like that."

Berryhill helped them put the brackets together and organize the event. He added the Soldiers put all of the teams together, adver-

tised the games, and made the rules.

For Pfc. Johnson, this tournament gives her a way to express herself.

"Soccer is a way of life, it's like a religion," she said. "When you're playing it, it's like you're in a totally different world. You have your own control, the game can't disappoint you, you disappoint yourself."

See SOCCER, Page 3

Continued from FALLEN, Page 1

our volunteer military.

"We appreciate what they are doing for us," said Brig. Gen. Donahue.

"And we know that they are also sacrificing to support us here. Without the

sacrifice they are making – things they are doing at home, we couldn't do our jobs over here."

In 1868, when Memorial Day was first observed, it was about reconciliation.

General John A. Logan's Memorial Day Order

General Order No. 11

**Headquarters, Grand Army of the Republic
Washington D.C., May 5, 1868**

The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet church-yard. In this observance, no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit. ... Let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the Soldier's and Sailor's widow and orphan.

Today, it's about coming together to honor service-members who gave their all defending the United States and its freedom.

For TF Marne service-

members and civilians, it was a fitting service and an opportunity for them to express their gratitude for their comrades' service and sacrifice.



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

(right) Brigadier General Patrick J. Donahue II, Task Force Marne deputy command general Maneuver, and Command Sgt. Maj. Byron O. Loyd, DSTB, 3rd ID, command sergeant major, place a wreath in front of the TF Marne Fallen Warriors display case at TF Marne headquarters, during a Memorial Day observance, May 31.

Continued from SOCCER, Page 2

Now, at the age of 25, she finds the time to pursue her passion even though she is in a combat zone.



Photo by Spc. Michael Adams, TF Marne PAO

Private First Class Cherie Johnson, a para-legal specialist with DSTB, 3rd ID, dribbles the soccer ball during 2010 Speicher Soccer Tournament, May 30, at COB Speicher.

Even though she has only been playing soccer for eight years, her talent has been noticed by her unit leadership.

She is preparing to try out for the Army Woman's Soccer Team. Her leadership believes she is a quality player and a quality Soldier and will be able to represent the Army.

"The Army doesn't let just anyone represent them," said Pfc. Johnson. "I feel great about that."

Private First Class Johnson is a member of Task Force Real Madrid for the chance to be champion of this tourney.

The different games during the tourney become very passionate affairs with teams that have players from numerous countries including North America, Africa and Asia.

Playing soccer in Iraq is very challenging, according to Pfc. Johnson.

Teams play on sand and gravel, making it very hard to stop and turn because the surface is slippery. The temperature also gets very hot.

Despite the temperature and the different surface, she continues to play because of the challenge, and she wants to show the Army has many good qualities as well.

"We want to show we're not just about war, we've got sports skills as well," Pfc. Johnson added.

The tournament began May 30 and will continue thru June 5. Every game will be played at the COB Speicher Stadium. On May 31 – June 4, the games will start at 5:30 p.m.

On June 5, the back-to-back final games will start at 5 p.m.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Private First Class Angel Acosta, of Fabens, Texas, is with 1st Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade. He serves as an invaluable member of the Base Reaction Force Team on Contingency Operating Base Speicher. He volunteered his technical knowledge to help to repair the BRF vehicles, bringing three vehicles to fully mission capable status. Private First Class Acosta spends countless hours in the motor pool, along side the mechanics, helping to turn wrenches and fix faults. Private First Class Acosta recently scored a 299 on the Army Physical Fitness Test achieving the fastest two-mile run time in the entire company with a time at 13:02. Private First Class Acosta exemplifies the Army Value of selfless service by making contributions and doing his duties loyally without any thought of recognition. For outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence, PFC Acosta is an excellent choice for today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Specialist Ronald Rodgers, of Lawton, Okla., is with 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He serves as a firefinder radar operator assigned to the Q-36 radar section at Forward Operating Base Warhorse. He has assisted in processing more than 7,000 target acquisitions since his arrival in Iraq. Serving as the first responder to all counter fire missions, SPC Rodgers sent enemy target locations to warning authorities for each target acquisition. His attention to detail and quick response was critical to the FOB's counterfire capability. Specialist Rodgers is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and dispatching of the Q-36 radar section's equipment. He is often found at the side of the section's radar repairer mechanic during maintenance hours, absorbing all useful knowledge to keep the Q-36 radar in a high state of readiness. He remains a dedicated husband and father to his Family while maintaining the Q-36 target acquisition radar in a fully mission capable status. His knowledge and motivation make him an excellent choice for today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

You are invited

Wrangler National Patriot Tour

Where: FOB McHenry, FOB Warrior,
May 31
FOB Cobra, FOB Warhorse, June 1
COB Speicher, June 2

New Orleans Saints Cheerleaders

Where: June 5, COB Speicher
June 6, FOB Sykes, FOB Marez
June 7, FOB Warrior, FOB McHenry
June 8, FOB Cobra, FOB Warhorse-
When: Time TBD

Army Medical Department 4 Mile Walk and 8 Mile Run

When: June 26, registration at 4:45
a.m., start time is at 5:30 a.m.
Where: The run begins at LSA 16.



REGIONAL HEADLINES

Noisy muffler guides Longview man to his stolen truck

Longview Daily News

LONGVIEW, Wash. - A man whose truck was stolen just followed the noise, grateful he didn't fix the muffler.

"I heard what I thought was my truck start up" at 5 a.m. May 25, said Alex Hansen, 27, who lives in the 600 block of 24th Avenue in Longview. Clad only in shorts, barefoot, he ran outside.

"Sure enough, it was gone," he said. "I grabbed my girlfriend's keys. My truck's loud enough I could hear where it was going."

Driving his girlfriend's BMW, he soon spotted two vehicles on 26th Avenue, including his 1996 Toyota T-100. The vehicles were obviously traveling together, he said.

"I caught up about the time they got to Alabama," he said. "I chased them eight minutes or so down alleyways and streets. ... He just locked the truck up, jumped out and took off running." Hansen drove his truck home and surprised the police officer who was there to take a stolen-vehicle report. "He actually was just down the street filling out a report from a lady who just got her car broke into," Hansen said.

Police used a K9 to search the area where the thief abandoned the truck but had no luck, he said.

He described the thief as a white male wearing a black hoody, shorts and a backwards baseball cap. No description was available of the other car.

After checking his truck, Hansen realized the thieves removed his tools, camera, wallet and other valuables — probably putting them into the car he saw — before stealing it.

The increase in prowlers in his St. Helens Addition neighborhood has sparked interest in an informal block watch, Hansen said.

"We're going to try to get together," he said. "Maybe get more motion lights in the alleys."

Woman asks jury trial in 'sentences' sentence

Atlanta Journal-Constitution

ATLANTA - A 19-year-old Ellenwood woman has asked for a jury trial rather than write 2,500 times, "I will not dishonor myself by passing a school bus."

Nancy Nguyen was ordered to write that sentence and pay a \$350 fine, perform community service and take a defensive driving course for passing a stopped school bus in Forest Park in March.

Nguyen refused to write the sentences because, she said, she didn't intentionally pass the stopped bus; two tractor-trailer trucks blocked her view, she said.

She said she would go to jail rather than write the sentences because

she did not feel she had dishonored herself.

A hearing had been set for Wednesday in Forest Park municipal court, but the court officer said the case had been bound over to state court at Nguyen's request. No date was set for the trial.

"I'm not going to demean myself and be demeaned by other people," Nguyen told WSB-TV last week.

Forest Park's solicitor said it is common to require drivers younger than 21 to write those sentences if they passed a stopped school bus. The idea is to impress upon them that it is a serious and dangerous traffic offense, the solicitor told WSB.

"Writing something that many times ... it wouldn't teach me anything," Nguyen said.

Answers to Friday's Sudoku

8	9	1	5	2	3	6	7	4
4	6	3	7	1	8	5	9	2
5	7	2	4	6	9	1	3	8
2	5	9	1	8	6	3	4	7
6	4	7	2	3	5	8	1	9
3	1	8	9	4	7	2	5	6
7	2	4	6	5	1	9	8	3
9	3	5	8	7	2	4	6	1
1	8	6	3	9	4	7	2	5

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
135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TASK FORCE MARNE

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TF Marne PAO - Maj. Jeff Allen

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Editorial Staff

Managing Editor - Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs

Editor- Spc. Michael Adams