

# The North Star

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



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## Farewell games 4IBCT wraps up, returns final base to Iraqis

By Sgt.  
Shantelle Campbell  
4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

The establishment of effective relationships between the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, out of Fort Riley, Kan., and their Iraqi Security Force partners was the most critical part of their mission during their deployment to northern Iraq.

Since deploying to the Salah ad-Din province, last fall, the 'Dragon' brigade oversaw a successful parliamentary election where 73 percent of the population in the province made their voices heard by casting a vote, despite the threats of violence against them.

Then, on May 25, the brigade returned its 12th and final base to the Government of Iraq.

As a way of creating final memories for the Soldiers from 701st Brigade Support Battalion and the 4th Iraqi Army, the unit hosted a Farewell Organizational Day, May 30 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

During the organizational day, Soldiers of the 'Diligent'

battalion enjoyed friendly competition in volleyball and soccer with their Iraqi counterparts.

Specialist Barbara Vargas, a medic with Co. A, said that she enjoyed the time she spent with the Iraqi soldiers and was very impressed by their eagerness to learn new things.

"During (medical evacuation training), we got to go on various missions. We did ISF training where we taught the Iraqis how to do our jobs as [medics, which] was a good experience because they were all really smart and very enthusiastic about learning and improving their own country as we're about to leave," said the Gaithersburg, Md., native.

"It was just good to see that they are smart people who are willing to make a change and make a difference."

Warsaw, Ind., native, 1st Lt. Bradley Staddon, the executive officer of Btry. B, said that the experience he's had with the Iraqis was rewarding and one that he won't soon forget.

"From what I've seen, everything they do is [them

wanting] to better themselves [and] their country," said 1st Lt. Staddon about his Iraqi counterparts. "They go on missions with us, and they come to visit us ... it's just like they're with us, in our Army, and it's just really

phenomenal."

The day culminated with an award ceremony inside the Main Gym at COB Speicher where 701st BSB command expressed their gratitude and appreciation for their Iraqi counterparts.



Photo by Sgt. Shantelle Campbell, 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

(Right) Soldiers of the 701st BSB, 4th IBCT, 1st ID, go for a block during a volleyball game on organizational day, May 30 at COB Speicher.

# Artillery receives evacuation training

**By Master Sgt.  
Duff McFadden  
2nd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO**

One of the most important aspects of military medical care is the timely evacuation of the casualty.

And the clock was ticking during training on casualty evacuation care.

Two Soldiers lay on combat litters in the torrid, Iraqi sun. After being strapped down, they're lifted up and transported onto Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles.

According to Sgt. Ronald Railing, a South Bend, Ind., native and the senior medic with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, the 26 Soldiers surrounding him had two minutes to strap him and the other wounded Soldier onto a litter, then securely into the vehicle.

"As part of casualty evacuation care we're showing a group of Soldiers the proper way to use non-standard evacuation vehicles in a combat situation and how to maximize each vehicle to its full capacity," Sgt. Railing said. "They need to get the casualty into the vehicle, secure them from any further injury and give the medic enough mobility to take care of the patients."

The battery's main mission is to provide transportation and security for the Provincial Reconstruction Team. The PRT interacts with the provincial governor, helping to ensure jobs are getting done, such as sewage and electrical repairs. They also check with local farmers, advising and assisting them with their

crops and livestock, and aid in helping grow Iraqi businesses.

"We spend almost every day outside the wire," said Sgt. Railing.

The unit uses MRAPs for its daily missions.

"Our lieutenant said we needed a class. ... I felt this was one of the more important classes, as the vehicles we usually utilize as an artil-

lery unit, we're not using here," Sgt. Railing said.

Sergeant Railing also added that the Soldiers in his unit didn't fully know the capabilities of their MRAPs in transporting patients until the training.

"We're making sure all of our Soldiers have combat casualty evacuation training. The very nature of our mission puts us in bad plac-

es," said 1st Lt. Ryan Greer, the Btry. B commander, and native of Atlanta. "Our platoon has been hit three times since we've been in Iraq. It's a good class for our Soldiers and a good one for them to practice on. We need to make sure if anyone gets hurt, we'll be able to take care of them and evacuate them."

One of three medics within the battery, Sgt. Railing returned to the Army in 2002, following an 11-year break in service. After serving as a civilian emergency medical technician, he said he came back in, because he wanted to finish what he had started and use his civilian skills in a combat environment.

It wasn't long, unfortunately, before that opportunity presented itself.

Sergeant Railing served in Mosul, Iraq, in 2004-05, with the 25th Infantry Division out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He was on duty Dec. 21, 2004 when a suicide bomber attacked the Mosul Dining Facility, killing 22 U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers and civilian contractors and wounding another 69 individuals.

"I treated 11 casualties and only lost one. I was told by the Combat Surgical Hospital, he wouldn't have survived, regardless of my efforts," he said.

Unit training is scheduled on a week-to-week basis.

The next class will cover reacting to an improvised explosive device/unexploded ordnance, previous classes have included laser safety; Mosul cultural awareness; submitting a 9-line medical evacuation; map reading and land navigation.



Photo by Master Sgt. Duff McFadden, 2nd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO  
**Battery B, 1/9th FA, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID Soldiers load a patient onto an MRAP vehicle during casualty evacuation training, May 24 at COS Marez.**

# Rodeo tour wrangles up troop support

By Pvt. Zachary Zuber  
3rd SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. PAO

A chair may be quite different from a calf, but for lasso lessons hosted by Kaycee Field, a collegiate world champion cowboy, the differences were blurred. He demonstrated and taught the skill to Soldiers who came to see the Wrangler National Patriot Tour at the Sallie Gym on Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, June 1.

Field, along with several other rodeo stars, volunteered to tour bases around Iraq to provide Soldiers with a break from stressors of daily missions. The group was organized by Robi Powers, founder of The Warrior Tours, a non-profit organization that provides a unique style of entertainment for deployed servicemembers.

"These are highly meaningful, emotional, tours that have a lot of feeling behind them," said Powers.

"From Olympic athletes who brought their medals and allowed 10,000 servicemembers to wear them last month, to bringing over these rodeo icons to allow people to have a little yee-haw fun."

Soldiers and civilians stationed at FOB Warhorse

arrived at the event to take part in the fun.

Laughs could be heard over the country tunes that filled the gym, and smiles were plentiful.

Even though some were hesitant to participate, everyone appreciated having the opportunity.

"It definitely boosts the morale because they still have the courage to come out and see us, even though this is still a dangerous environment," said Sgt. Lamar Glover, a 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division Soldier from New York City.

"I'm gonna leave the lasso alone tonight though, other people were doing it, but I got the other stuff [a T-shirt and bandana] so I think I'll be ok."

The far reaching impact of the tour is not just for those Soldiers who throw a rope or collect an autograph. Powers has recently partnered with Wrangler Jeans to create a new "National Patriot" clothing line that will help support wounded warriors and the Families of fallen Soldiers everywhere.

"The rodeo world, and the western world in general has always supported our military," said Jeff Chadwick, director of Western Special

Events for Wrangler Western Wear. "It was just sort of natural for us to take this and not only raise awareness but also raise money for those that have sacrificed, been wounded or lost their lives and their Families need support."

A professional photographer traveled with the group to provide photographs and videos to post on a Web site for Soldiers' Families to view and download. This system allows the professional cowboys to leave an impression long after their three hours in the gym. The Warrior Tours program will continue

to take a valuable brand of entertainment around the world.

"I think America needs to understand that this conflict has been going on for eight years, and servicemembers have been involved sometimes three or even five times, or they have a buddy that has," said Powers. "The bands, comedians, and cheerleaders are awesome. I just want to bring something unique and meaningful that even the kids at home can see and show off photos at school – their mom or dad standing with an American star."



Photos by Pvt. Zachary Zuber, 3rd SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. PAO

**Above:** Major R. Scott Harbison, provost marshal for the 3rd SBCT, 2nd ID, prepares to throw a lasso around a chair during a visit by the Wrangler National Patriot Tour to FOB Warhorse, June 1. Soldiers who successfully roped the chair were given a T-shirt autographed by the visiting members from the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

**Left:** Soldiers stationed at FOB Warhorse sign a flag that will be displayed during ceremonies on the Wrangler National Patriot Tour. Professional rodeo stars brought the flag with them while visiting several bases throughout Iraq.



## Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Specialist Zachary Rogers, of Indianapolis, is with Troop A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. He is a recognized expert and professional, as evidenced by his previous combat tour with the troop. He continues to demonstrate excellence on a daily basis while serving as a dismount and gunner during frequent combined operations with the 3rd Iraqi Army Commandos. Specialist Rogers always tops the list of Soldiers. His troop chooses to take on the most challenging missions. He is an asset to his platoon, doing all things well and always exceeding the standard while displaying his contagious sense of humor and irrepressible smile. Specialist Rogers was an exemplary trainer during the initial train-up cycle for his partnered unit, being a key member of the team charged with developing their individual and collective training proficiency. His service exemplifies the best qualities of enlisted Soldiers across his formation and make him most deserving of being recognized as today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Craig Ferguson, of Artesian, S.D., is a focused professional, supporting the war fighter with imagery, human and signal intelligence, and data analysis using geospatial technology. He serves as the National Geospatial Agency team leader for Task Force Marne and provides first class service to the division staff. His determination to provide quality products and package critical intelligence into a comprehensive format is well recognized by the general officers who rely on his products. Craig has worked for the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency for 22 years and has supported U.S. forces in Iraq along with deployments to several locations around the world, where he provided geospatial expertise, training, and data sets for deployed forces. He recently created several products for the Salah ad-Din Provincial Reconstruction Team to assist their agriculture section and routinely supports the engineer and civil military operations cells. Ferguson's work ethic speaks volumes about his dedication and professionalism and makes him an excellent choice for this week's Task Force Marne Service Provider of the Week.



You're invited to a summer bash that will be patriotic, energetic and entertaining. Task Force Marne will celebrate the Army's 235th birthday, June 13 with a live, musical tribute that will give you a glimpse into American history.

Stand proudly and honor Soldiers, both past and present, who are responsible for building the United States' most powerful military force.

The emotionally-provoking ceremony will begin at 5 p.m. in the COB Speicher Main Gym, and the event will conclude with a barbecue at the Speicher Stadium, beginning at 6 p.m. It's not really summer until you enjoy a grilled burger with a refreshing drink.



## REGIONAL HEADLINES

### Washington robber caught after running out of breath

Kirkland Reporter

KIRKLAND, Wash. - A Kirkland man accused of trying to rob an Edmonds jewelry store was captured when he ran out of breath, the Lynwood Enterprise reports.

After Edmond police captured Steven Kyle, he told police he only has one lung.

Kyle went into Cline Custom Jewelers May 5 and told store employees he was shopping for engagement rings.

A jewelry designer later told police that the man reached into the waistband of his pants and warned her he was armed with what appeared to be a handgun.

Kyle demanded the woman hand over a dozen rings worth \$75,000 and fled the store. Some good Samaritans were able to chase the man down once he ran out of breath.

### Craigslist 'buyers' arrive with guns

ultimatepearland.com

PEARLAND, Texas - When a Houston resident arrived at a Pearland park May 30 to meet a prospective buyer for shoes placed on Craigslist, he found himself facing men with guns.

The victim, 21, told Pearland police investigators that he brought seven pairs of Nike collectible footwear to a park in the Southern Trails subdivision to meet a supposed buyer.

The victim was accompanied by three friends – two men from Houston and another man from Pasadena.

A man exited a vehicle and approached the four. When he began to collect the shoes, the seller demanded payment.

That's when the "buyer" raised his shirt to display a handgun, Pearland police Sgt. Onesimo Lopez said. Two other men in the vehicle also got out and displayed handguns, while a fourth man collected the Nikes, police said.

The suspects then drove away in the vehicle.

"It appears to be random meeting place, and an unusual one at that," Lopez said. "Anyone looking to sell property on Craigslist should consider the location of the property exchange – and really think and use their head more."

"They need to find someplace that's public, where there's a lot of witnesses around," he said. "Maybe a mall would have been better."

Craigslist has its own cautions for sellers. Investigators are working "some good leads and detectives are following up to try to make an arrest," Lopez said.

### Man wanted for reckless driving chased to airport hanger

Atlanta Journal-Constitution

ATLANTA- The man who led authorities on a chase to a hangar

at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport June 1 had been driving erratically and was being pursued for traffic violations.

Tyler Murkerson, 20, was hiding in his vehicle between two big trucks outside an airport equipment hangar when he finally was apprehended, Sgt. Sonja Sanchez of the Clayton County Sheriff's Department told the AJC.

He was arrested and charged with numerous moving violations, including reckless driving, running stop signs and a light, and driving on the wrong side of the road, Sanchez said.

A sheriff's deputy saw Murkerson cross four lanes of traffic without signaling and flipped on his blue lights, but Murkerson didn't stop, Sanchez said.

Instead, he led the officer on a chase to a Korean Air hangar used to store the trucks and other heavy equipment that services airplanes, Sanchez said.

"He tried to hide in between some trucks thinking he was going to elude the officer," Sanchez said.

### Georgia Texting Law

Effective July 1, Georgia's texting while driving law goes into effect. This law makes it illegal to write, send, or read text messages when driving. It also applies to reading texts while at a traffic light or when the vehicle is idling.

### 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

25th Combat Aviation Brigade,  
25th Infantry Division  
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TF Marne Writer- Sgt. Johnathon Jobson

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