

The North Star

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



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Peshmerga forces begin basic infantry training

By Pfc. Jessica Luhrs,
1BCT, 1st AD PAO

Peshmerga forces have been fighting side by side with U.S. forces since 2003, and select members of the 1st Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade started basic infantry training, conducted by U.S. troops, at a headquarters in Laylan, near Kirkuk, Iraq, June 14.

The training is being facilitated by their brothers in arms, the Soldiers of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 'Gunners' 3rd Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division out of Fort Bliss, Texas.

More than 50 KRGB

noncommissioned officers and officers are participating in the training and are set to graduate mid-August, according to Cpl. Anthony Millsap, a Btry. B, Soldier, who is one of the Soldiers responsible for training the Peshmerga.

During training they will learn infantry skills, proper care and use of their weapon and other battlefield techniques, Cpl. Millsap said.

"They are already picking up on the training very quickly," he added.

The first sergeant of Btry. B explained that the Peshmerga are picking up quickly

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Photos by Pfc. Jessica Luhrs, 1st BCT, 1st AD PAO

(Above) Staff Sergeant Pedro Lopez, a squad leader with Btry. B, 2/3rd FA, 1st BCT, 1st AD, shows a Peshmerga soldier how to hold his 'weapon' during training, in Laylan, near Kirkuk, June 14.

(Below) Staff Sergeant Lopez, shows Peshmerga forces various hand signals during training. This is the first official day of basic infantry training for Peshmerga from U.S. forces in Kirkuk.



Corporal Anthony Millsap, a team leader with Btry. B, 2/3 FA, 1st BCT, 1st AD, shows Peshmerga forces various movement techniques using rocks, in Laylan, June 14.

Reserve counselor gives ETS briefs in USD - N

**By Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Halford
TF Marne Retention**

Are you a Soldier with an ETS date in the next six to eight months? Do you still need to complete your transition briefing and counseling, but haven't been able to get it done due to being deployed? If so, then here is some great news for you. Master Sergeant Benjamin Taylor, a Reserve Component career counselor from Fort Stewart, Ga. is now available to assist you from Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

As U.S. forces begin to leave Iraq during the transition to stability operations, many Soldiers who chose not to reenlist will be faced with the sometimes daunting task of transitioning out of active military service. One of the mandatory parts of the transition process is the pre-transition briefing and the transition counseling session.

Between now and July 30, Soldiers in United States Division - North who need to attend a transition briefing or need separation counseling will have the opportunity to meet with Master Sgt. Taylor. This can be done either in person or by attending one of the numerous pre-transition briefings he will be holding on various bases in USD-N, or both if necessary.

"Some Soldiers decide to leave active duty for various reasons, but all of them have to talk to a Reserve Component counselor before separation," said Master Sgt. Taylor. He further explained that, "some Soldiers still have time left on their statutory military service obligation and must transfer into the reserve component either as a member of a unit, or as a member of the Individual Ready Reserve. Others no longer have an obligation, but would like to continue to serve part-time to retain some of their benefits and continue to accrue time towards a retirement from the Reserves.

"The first thing I do is look at the Soldier's situation and see if staying on active duty is a better option for them than what the Reserve Component can provide. If they don't have a good plan and a means of support I normally recommend they talk to the unit's active-duty career counselor about reenlisting," Master Sgt Taylor said. "If they have a plan, or just don't want to stay on active duty, then I discuss their options based on where they plan to live when they separate from service. If they are within 180 days of their separation date they can sign a contract to become a member of a Reserve or Guard unit once their active duty is complete."

Master Sergeant Taylor deployed to Iraq to assist in the transition process and to provide support to both 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers theater-wide, and to other units who need support while deployed in the Task Force Marne area of operation. He is also available to provide general reserve retention support to mobilized members of the Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

Pre-transition briefings will be offered at Forward Operating Base Warhorse during the week of June 21 to June 26, FOB Warrior the week of June 28 to July 3, Forward Operating Base Marez the week of July 5 to July 10, at 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division in USD-Central from July 12 to July 17, and at 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division in USD-South the week of July 19 to July 24.

Master Sergeant Taylor will be assisting Speicher units continuously when he is not out assisting units at the other bases in northern Iraq. After the end of July he will depart the country.

Master Sgt. Taylor can be reached at Bldg 2611 on Speicher, via e-mail at Benjamin.taylor@iraq.centcom.mil, or by phone at DSN 318-845-6775 and SVOIP 242-1572..



Photo by Pfc. Adrian Muehe, 3rd SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. PAO

A mix of six servicemembers and civilians lay down while bicycle motocross rider Brad Simms performs a spin over them during the X Games Tour at FOB Warhorse, June 12.

X Games athletes tour Iraqi bases

Special to the North Star

Athletes from the X Games made a stop on their tour of Iraq to Forward Operating Bases Warhorse and Warrior to show their appreciation for U.S. forces stationed there.

Professional skateboarders Jen O'Brien and Anthony Furlong; bicycle motocross riders Jay Eggleston and Brad Simms; and skier Keri Herman demonstrated some of their skills for the troops at the Sallie Gym before signing autographs and meeting with the Soldiers.

"We wanted to come over and show our support," said Eggleston. "I thought it would be a cool experience, and it turned out to be. I was excited

just to come over and show my thanks for all that Soldiers are doing over here."

While at Warhorse, performing for 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, the night started off with the athletes introducing themselves to the servicemembers and civilians that came out to see them. They then set up a couple of small ramps on the basketball court to perform a few tricks. Audience participation was encouraged and Simms even jumped over Soldiers on his bike.

Soldiers from the 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division built ramps for the athletes.

They worked 22 hours straight to complete the project.

Tennessee father-son team serve in Iraq

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

Many Soldiers feel as though their deployed sisters and brothers in arms are their Family because they witness what friends and Family cannot see at home.

For some of the Tennessee National Guardsmen, family love within a unit reaches beyond camaraderie because they're actually Family.

Many of the guardsmen with 3rd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment are deployed with Family Members.

Major Bobbie Sprouse, the executive officer for 3/278th ACR and Sgt. Stephen Sprouse, a cavalry scout, also with 3/278 ACR, are one of the many Family Members sharing a deploy-

ment together. The father-son team, both out of Rincon, Ga., is currently stationed at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, in Tikrit, Iraq.

Originally, Sgt. Sprouse was not part of Maj. Sprouse's unit. He transferred units after hearing 3rd Squadron was deploying, so he could serve with his father.

"I'm glad he deployed with us," said Maj. Sprouse. "The way the National Guard rotations work, he was going to deploy at some point and time. Now, I know when he is [on base] and safe. That's the greatest benefit I get out of it."

Although they work separate shifts, they still find ways to meet and spend quality time together.

"He'll leave notes on my board in my office," said Maj. Sprouse. "If he

needs to pick up some stuff at the store, he'll leave a note and we'll pair up and go."

Major Sprouse jokingly added that his son sometimes buys him lunch because 'majors don't make much money,' prompting a quick smile from Sgt. Sprouse.

For Sgt. Sprouse, the benefits of having a deployed parent help provide a support system when times are hard. One instance caused the Sprouses to lean on each other when they received a Red Cross message requiring them both to take emergency leave early in the deployment.

They needed to support their wife and mother, who had just lost her father.

"It was really good to have him there," said Sgt. Sprouse. "It was a lot easier for both of us to deal with it. It happened at an unfortunate time, but the fact that we were both here at the same time made it easier."

"He's here, you don't have to worry about making a phone call, there's always somebody right in your immediate Family down the street," Sgt. Sprouse added.

Overall, both Sprouses agree that serving a deployment is an honorable experience, but serving one with a Family Member makes the experience a treasure.

"It's different, and it's something that we can take back with us," said Sgt. Sprouse. "How many people get to say that they went over [to Iraq] and came back ... and they did it with their dad?"



Courtesy Photo

Major Bobbie Sprouse, executive officer for 3/278th ACR, relaxes with his son, Sgt. Stephen Sprouse, a cavalry scout with 3/278 ACR, during a mission in Taji.

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because this group was handpicked by their leadership.

"Our concept for this training is to train the trainer," said 1st Sgt. Bobby Bennett, with Btry. B, and the senior enlisted trainer. "In order for this concept to work, we brought out a select group of Pesh."

Picking the right individuals to receive the training was key, because they will go back to their units to train their own forces.

Leadership of the KRGB said they were very appreciative of the training.

Sergeant Major Harked Alimase Halmasala said he is thankful because he has lost many men on the battlefield due to their lack of training.

"We fight as we train; now we are training well, so we'll fight well," he said.

Corporal Millsap said this training will do more than give the Peshmerga skills needed for the battlefield.

"This training gives the Pesh a sense of courage and confidence; it also prepares them to take over the security in the area," he said.



Photo by Pfc. Jessica Luhrs, 1st BCT, 1st AD PAO

First Sergeant Bobby Bennett, with Btry B, 2/3 FA, 1st BCT, 1st AD, speaks to Peshmerga forces after their first day of infantry training in Laylan, June 14.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Sergeant Brannan Bishop, of Dawsonville, Ga., is with Troop B, 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. His platoon came under fire from one dismounted enemy on a hillside. Fully knowing the limits of his assigned vehicle and crew, he rapidly maneuvered the vehicle to engage the individual. His decisive action, placing his vehicle in a location not expected by the enemy dismount, proved him an adept cavalry scout and resulted in the capture of a known enemy combatant. Sergeant Bishop is a principled leader and lends guidance to his subordinates, growing them into the skilled leader he is. His attention to detail and mission-focused actions ensure his assigned vehicles are always fully mission capable and that his Soldiers are supervised during services and while they conduct preventive checks. He also shows the same attention to detail for all crew-served weapons assigned to his vehicle platforms and all the personal weapons in his squad. Sergeant Bishop's professionalism enables him to stand out from his peers and makes him most deserving of being selected as today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Staff Sergeant Thomas Marcoux, of Grand Rapids, Mich., is with 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. He displayed untiring motivation during the planning and set up of an Iraqi Army platoon live fire range. Staff Sergeant Marcoux created the template for the troop event during range preparation. His development of the layout for the live fire exercises created a challenging course that safely facilitates effective training. Staff Sergeant Marcoux's efforts resulted in a top notch training event that set the example for the unit leadership so that they can replicate it for future training after coalition forces leave. Staff Sergeant Marcoux's positive attitude and gregarious personality inspired both his Soldiers and the Iraqi Army Commandos. Staff Sergeant Thomas Marcoux's untiring efforts and dedication to mission accomplishment is an inspiration to all, and definitely make him worthy of recognition as today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

On this day, June 18, in history ...

www.history.com

1778 - British forces, under the command of Sir Henry Clinton, abandoned Philadelphia after they received news the French entered the Revolutionary War on the side of the Americans because they believed they would not be able to hold the city against any potential attack.

1812 - The war of 1812 began with congress declaring war on Great Britain in retaliation against various practices by the British Empire, including forced induction of Americans into the British Royal Navy.

1815 - Napoleon Bonaparte suffered defeat in Waterloo, Belgium, at the hands of the Duke of Wellington, effectively ending Napoleon's reign over Europe.

1942 - Film critic Roger Ebert, who would become one of the America's most respected film critics, was born in Urbana, Ill.

1983 - Doctor Sally Ride is launched into space on the space shuttle Challenger. She would become the first female astronaut in space.

1984 - Controversial radio host Alan Berg is gunned down in the driveway of his Denver home.

BOB ON THE FOB by SGT Albert J. Merrifield

"The Looooove Boat, exciting and new... Hop aboard, we're waiting for youuuuuu...." Man, I've got a great voice...

Shower Princess n. (shou'-ər prīn- ses)

Suggested by Capt. Mathew Bunch

1. Phrase used to describe members (male or female) of a highly disruptive species of fobbit native to the area near shower and latrine facilities. These animals exist outside the normal space/time continuum, so all 5-minute showers (to them) appear (to the rest of the world) to take at least 45 minutes. Species survives by sucking all hot water out of any water heater within a quarter mile. Can be spotted on the way to the shower by huge toiletry kits, often mistaken for a rucksack, but identified by the scented bodywash and sponges hanging from it. Identified within the shower area by steam emanating from shower stall and Broadway show tunes or bad television theme songs being sung. Has the unique ability to not hear the phrases "combat shower," "quick shower" or "hey, we'd like some hot water, too!"

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Kamehameha students roll with a lip dub music video

[Honolulu Star-Advertiser.com](http://HonoluluStar-Advertiser.com)

KAMEHAMEHA, Hawaii - It isn't quite the entire school dancing to "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go." It just looks that way.

In the last week, Kamehameha Schools' seven-minute music video has truly gone viral, with more than 14,000 hits on YouTube and so much buzz in the community that the morning TV shows are calling.

The piece is called a lip dub, a mixture of lip-synching and dubbing the music to video. It is the latest thing in high school video classes, so new that Kamehameha film and production teacher Leah Kihara had to look it up.

"A friend sent me a link to a school on the mainland that did a lip dub, and I thought, 'What's a lip dub?'" she said.

Kihara showed the clip to her advanced students, who took it as a challenge. They figured out the elements of the form: It had to look spontaneous, it needed to involve hundreds of students and the music had to be fun, singable and retro.

She has worked on a number of documentaries, independent films and television projects in Hawaii and around the Pacific Rim. She just finished her first year teaching at Kamehameha.

"Throughout the year, the students were working on projects by

themselves or in small groups. The lip dub was the first time the entire class worked together on one project."

The video includes five songs, weaves through the staircases and fields of the beautiful Kapalama campus and involves close to 300 students. It looks spontaneous, as if it was somehow shot in one take, indeed it almost was.

"It was May 21. We shot it all in one day after school," Kihara said. "We said, 'OK, you only get one chance. If you mess up, you mess up.' We told ourselves it would be an epic -- either an epic success or an epic failure."

The section of the piece that runs backward required the most preparation. Student Skye Sonomura took the oldie song "Magic" by Pilot, played it backward with a computer editing program, wrote down the way the lyrics sounded phonetically and then memorized the sounds.

The day of the shoot, the advanced video students put tape on the ground to mark where the wrestling team should go and where the cheerleaders should stand. And then they called action, started the music and worked with whatever happened. There's so much charm to the piece, but one especially memorable moment is two minutes in when two boys break into a geeky strut to the lyrics "I would walk 500 miles."

Though it is summer break, some of the students are working on a "the making of" video that will be posted soon. Meanwhile, Kihara has

the summer to think about how her students might try to top this next year.

"I know!" she says. "Everyone keeps asking us how we're going to do that."

Washington man charged with impersonating a lawyer

[Seattle Times](http://SeattleTimes)

KENT, Wash. - The owner of a Kent paralegal firm who has been investigated by state officials for alleged "unauthorized practice of law" during the past 13 years is now facing potential criminal charges.

Steven Janda, who owns Evergreen Paralegal Service, was charged in King County Superior Court late last week with unlawful practice of law, first-degree theft and second-degree theft.

The state Attorney General's Office started investigating Janda in 1997 and in 2004 he signed an agreement with the state Practice of Law Board, promising to refrain from engaging in the practice of law, court charging documents said.

But since 2004, five additional complaints were filed with the law board, prosecutors said.

On June 14, Janda said that he hasn't seen the charges and plans to file a defamation suit against the board. He said that if he's being charged the two victims are co-conspirators because "they asked me to do what they paid me to do."

Janda said that he didn't do anything illegal.

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,
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