

The North Star

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



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Medical mission aids refugees

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

As the sun rose over the Bakhtiyari neighborhood in Khaniqan, citizens started lining up at the local clinic to receive medical care, June 22. The treatment provided came from doctors and medics from three battalions with 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

Soldiers from Co. C., 296th Brigade Support Battalion; Headquarters Support Battery, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment; and Troop A, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, worked together on the military civilian medical operation.

Throughout the day approximately 300 people entered the clinic to seek treatment and medicine for their ailments, ranging from minor aches and pains to more serious injuries or diseases. While these men, women, and children displayed different symptoms, they all share a common background.

"Bakhtiyari is actually made up of a lot of residents who were prior displaced persons in Iran," said Capt. Nick Shallcross, of Long-

mont, Colo., and the commander of Troop A, 1/14th Cav. "They are all Iraqi, many of whom are Shia, who were kicked out of Iraq by the Saddam regime. They lived in refugee camps in Iran, and then came back to Khaniqan after the fall of Saddam."

This quarter of Khaniqan was a "tent city" a couple years ago before the refugees began building permanent homes for themselves. This neighborhood also has a Red Crescent center, an Iraqi Police Station, and a small clinic, said Capt. Shallcross.

"We've been planning an MCMO in Bakhtiyari for awhile," said Capt. Shallcross. "We have done three MCMOs in this northern part of our area of operation since January. We identified Bakhtiyari for this because, since they were displaced persons, they don't get a lot of support, and we wanted to help them out."

Peshmerga, Iraqi Police, and U.S. Soldiers provided security for this event. Medical personnel from the brigade established two private exam rooms to treat minor inflictions, and administer medicine.

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

Captain Mary Nolan, preventive medicine officer for 3rd SBCT, 2nd ID, talks with an Iraqi girl during a public health class in the Bakhtiyari neighborhood in Khaniqan, June 22.

Michigan native contributes to mission in Iraq

By Spc. Jessica Zullig
135th Mobile PA Det.

Combat engineers from 3rd Platoon, 573rd Clearance Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, out of White Sands Missile Range, N.M., work in the dark Iraq heat. The mission tonight is culvert denial, which is to prevent insurgents from placing improvised explosive devices in the culverts by placing grates over them. Spc. Gregory Horosko is an asset the company needs to support this mission.

Specialist Horosko, an Albion, Mich., native, is a combat engineer aiding the mission both as a heavy machine operator and by providing security.

"We are making a difference here," he said. "We're helping out by preventing future IEDs."

Specialist Horosko is a team player. He helps his teammates in every instance he can.

As his battle buddy leans into the drill, Spc. Horosko



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

Specialist Gregory Horosko, combat engineer with 3rd Plt., 573rd Clearance Co., 1st Eng. Bn., out of White Sands Missile Range, N.M., pushes Spc. William Geary into a drill, while Staff Sgt. James Eric helps stabilize it to emplace a culvert denial system, June 21.

pushes him, helping to provide enough force to break into the thick concrete.

The hole the drill produces is where a piece of rebar will be placed to secure the grate.

For these combat engineers, it's nothing but teamwork – from shoveling to driving to the site; they are the real definition of team players.

"I feel we work well as a team," said Spc. Horosko.

"We all help out when and where it is needed. It helps getting a break here and there and helps speed up the mission. When everyone is working or helping, it keeps us motivated to keep working hard and complete the mission."

When the team isn't performing culvert denial, they fill in blast holes from past IEDs. Doing so helps convoy logistic patrols reach their destination safer and helps

the U.S. forces maintain a healthy relationship with local residents.

"We help make the ride easier," said Spc. Horosko. "It doesn't seem like a big job, but you have to take a step back then look at it. We help keep a good relationship with Iraqis. We also help with the safety of traveling on the roads for military and civilians by stopping emplacement of IEDs. I feel it helps the overall mission in Iraq a great deal."

The platoon will soon be transitioning from fixing roads to traveling on one – the road home.

When Spc. Horosko redeploy, he is looking forward to seeing his family. His wife, Jessica, currently resides in Jackson, Mich., and they have been married for two years. They have two daughters, Emma, 3, and Aurelia, 2. His goal when he returns is to attend Sapper school so he can better help the team by becoming "an expert."



You are invited

Vertical Horizon

Where: COB Speicher
When: July 4, Main Gym;
July 7, South Speicher,
Where: FOB Marez
When: July 5
Where: FOB Warrior
When: July 6

Tops in Blue

Where: FOB Marez
When: July 8
Where: FOB Warrior
When: July 9
Where: COB Speicher
When: July 10

Ja Rule

Where: FOB Warrior
When: July 19
Where: COB Speicher
When: July 20

Lone Wolf Comedians

Where: FOB Marez
When: July 26
Where: FOB McHenry,
FOB Warrior
When: July 27
Where: COB Speicher
When: Two shows July 28

New program helps Soldiers 'Flatten the Wave'

By Sgt. Shantelle Campbell
41BCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

After recognizing an alarming increase in divorce rates among military personnel in 2004, the Army set out to reverse the trend by spending \$2 million on a variety of marriage programs.

Most of these programs focus on providing Soldiers and their spouses with tools that would help them endure and stay together during stressful times such as deployments. However, there were hardly any programs that specifically focused on helping Soldiers and their spouses cope after the relationship had fallen apart.

Noticing a need for such a program, Chaplain (Maj.) Terry Romine of Hoxie, Ark., and a Family Life chaplain for the 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Ga., took the chaplain's concept and created the "Flatten the Wave" program.

Flatten the Wave is a unit program designed to provide Soldiers, who are facing a potential divorce or

TF Marne Family Life chaplain designed briefing to provide Soldiers, who are facing a potential divorce or break-up, with information to assist them in adapting after deployment

break-up, with information to assist in "flattening the relational wave when they hit the beach for redeployment and reintegration."

According to Chaplain Romine, there is an unfortunate pattern of relationship issues after re-deployment that result in marital break-ups, divorce, domestic violence and even suicide.

"Though we don't think we can prevent all of that, maybe we can mitigate some of the consequences and help people overcome those difficulties" with the Flatten the Wave program, said Chaplain Romine.

Still a relatively new program, Flatten the Wave has already received high reviews from chaplains throughout the division and from Sgt. 1st Class Andra Jones, the Personal Security Detachment platoon sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th IBCT.

Sergeant First Class

Jones' Soldiers were the first to go through the two-hour program.

"The Flatten the Wave program is a good program, especially for young Soldiers," said the Atlanta, native. "It opened their eyes to a lot of stuff that they didn't know about as far as consequences of their actions."

An area of the program that caught the attention of most of the Soldiers was the portion on the financial consequences of a break-up or divorce.

Sergeant First Class Jones said that he saw many of his Soldiers "sit straight up in their chairs" as the legal officer spoke about all that needs to be considered when a couple decides to go their separate ways.

In addition to making Soldiers aware of the legal and financial consequences of a divorce or break-up, the program also gave Soldiers tools to strengthen their communication and listen-

ing skills when in disagreement with their spouse or significant other.

"I believe [the program] taught Soldiers how to learn to work through their problems instead of [running away] at the first sign of trouble," added Sgt. 1st Class Jones.

"I believe it opened their eyes to a lot of things that they were unaware of [and helped them understand] that problems are always going to be there. There's no perfect marriage. It's all about working through it and learning how to work through it until they reconcile [their differences]."

According to Chaplain Romine, the program was designed so it could be conformed to the needs of the unit, if the unit commander decided to implement it into their reintegration training.

For more information about the Flatten the Wave program, please contact your unit chaplain.

Continued from DOCTOR, Page 1

"We can only treat for acute care issues," said Capt. Morrie Fanto, commander of HSB, 1/37th FA.

"We can treat for pain, common illnesses, and give out medicine. We can also refer more serious cases to the local hospital, where hopefully they can get those issues addressed."

While patients waited to be screened, they received a class on public health by Capt. Mary Nolan, of Lewiston, Minn., the preventive medicine officer for 3rd SBCT, 2nd ID, where they learned how washing their hands and brushing their teeth can improve their quality of life.

During the hours of the MCMO, workers at the clinic walked around

taking photos and getting video of the bustling clinic, which is usually deserted.

"Ordinarily, we only have a few visitors come in on a daily basis," said Galib Gafor, the Bakhtiyari Medical Clinic director. "I am very happy about this. I wish this could happen every day."

The Soldiers from these three battalions plan on doing two more MCMOs in the surrounding area, and these will be the last ones rendered by 3rd SBCT, 2nd ID.

"Our tour is winding down," said Capt. Fanto. "There isn't much time left, so these will be the last ones we will conduct."



Photo by Pfc. Adrian Muehe, 3rd SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. PAO
Specialist Michael Epperson, medic for HSB, 1/37 FA, 3rd SBCT, 2nd ID, organizes medicine in a makeshift pharmacy during an MCMO in Khaniqan, Iraq, June 22.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Corporal Juan Esparza, of Mesquite, Texas, is with 3rd Squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. He serves in a position normally filled by a sergeant and was a key part of a successful mission to confirm or deny a possible insurgent safe-house in his unit's area of operation. He helped clear the house and confirmed it clear of enemy insurgents. His actions during the house-clearing helped prevent any civilian or U.S. forces casualties. Corporal Esparza's participation during the Iraqi elections as part of his unit's quick reaction force was instrumental in ensuring a successful election while supporting the Iraqi Security Forces. Corporal Esparza took part in a combined operation over watching an Iraqi Election Commission Facility. His knowledge and skills on the use of the Handheld Interagency Identity Detection Equipment system was demonstrated when he personally and successfully entered more than 48 individuals into the system. His actions and dedication to the mission are the reasons he is selected as today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Senior Airman Jacob Ballard, of Spokane, Wash., is with the 22nd Expeditionary Weather Squadron. He serves as a battlefield weather forecaster, and has continuously distinguished himself by updating the commanding general and his staff of pending adverse weather conditions. When a "troops in contact" was identified in the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division area of operations, Senior Airman Ballard accurately formulated surface visibility using three remote weather stations and quickly relayed the intelligence. His actions enabled intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance repositioning and medical evacuation extraction. Most recently, he forecasted a severe dust storm one week prior to onset, enabling a visiting element to reschedule battlefield circulation, optimize their time in country and most effectively complete their mission. His skills were recognized with his selection as the Task Force Marne Airman Weather Forecaster for May. He truly emulates the warrior ethos and his achievements have earned him the honor of being selected as today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

Safety Thought of the Week:

Office Safety

- Turn off equipment prior to performing maintenance.
- Do not remove equipment safety guards.
- Use the proper tools for the job.
- Don't rush, take enough time to safely complete the task.
- Ensure there is adequate lighting in the workspace.
- Use personal protective equipment if needed and minimize office clutter.
- Know your building's evacuation procedures.
- Remove or mark potential slip, trip and fall hazards.
- Know the location of first aid kits.



Answers to Monday's crossword puzzle

B	E	R	M	U	D	A		A	S	I	A	
O		O				Z				N		O
L	I	M	P	O	P	O		A	N	D	E	S
I		A				R		L		U		L
V	E	N	E	Z	U	E	L	A		S		O
I		I				S		M				
A	L	A	S	K	A		L	O	M	B	O	K
					A		O			A		A
O		E			B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E
M		I			U		T			R		P
A	N	G	E	L			A	L	A	B	A	M
N		E					W			I		L
	I	R	A	N			A	L	B	A	N	I

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Tiny turtle causes taxiing plane to return to gate

Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Atlanta - A caged, 2-inch turtle traveling with a 10-year-old girl caused a crew to turn around a taxiing plane, take the girl and her sisters off the flight and tell them they couldn't bring their pet along.

The sisters threw the animal and cage in the trash and returned to their seats crying June 22 after AirTran Airways employees on the jetway said they couldn't care for the turtle while their father drove to retrieve it. Two days later, however, Carley Helm was reunited with Neytiri even though at first the family thought the pet was emptied with the trash.

Carley was heading home to Milwaukee after visiting her father in Atlanta with sisters Annie, 13, and Rebecca, 22, when the flap unfolded. Rebecca said the three were led onto the jetway and told they'd have to get rid of the baby red ear slider — named Neytiri after the princess in the movie "Avatar" — if they wanted to reboard. "I asked, 'What do you mean get rid of it?' and they said throw it away," she said. "I was very sad, and I felt bad for my littlest sister because it was her first pet and she was planning to take care of it herself."

While the sisters say they were told to put the animal in the trash, AirTran says they chose that themselves, despite an offer to fly later at no extra charge.

AirTran company policy bars animals other than cats, dogs and household birds in the cabin, said spokesman Christopher White. White cited a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that says the reptiles have been known to carry salmonella bacteria.

The sisters say they made it past security screeners and an AirTran gate agent before boarding. One flight attendant told them to stow the cage under their seat, they say.

But with the flight rolling toward its takeoff, an attendant told them the turtle wasn't allowed in the cabin. Rebecca Helm called their father, and he began driving back to the airport. She asked an AirTran employee to make arrangements with her father to look after the pet until he could get there, but the employee refused.

"I basically had to make a really fast decision because the whole plane was being delayed," Rebecca Helm said. The bin wasn't very full and she thought the turtle could be found easily once her dad arrived, she said. Rebecca twice declined the offer to take a later flight, White said. "We don't have the personnel or the facilities to care for people's pets," White said.

Rebecca asked if throwing the pet away would allow for them to get back on the flight, White said. The gate agent did not tell the sisters what to do but said they could not get on the plane with the turtle, White said.

Half an hour later, the sisters' father

called, saying he wanted to come look through the trash, White said. The gate agent looked, couldn't find the turtle and assumed it had been emptied, he said.

The airline discovered June 23 that the ramp supervisor had rescued the turtle from the trash "out of his own compassion" and given it to another crew member, who took it home for her 5-year-old son, White said.

AirTran told that crew member the original owners wanted it back, and the airline arranged for the turtle to fly as cargo to Milwaukee June 24, White said.

Kansas teens find, return \$7,700 in cash

United Press International

LINDSBORG, Kan. - A group of Kansas teenagers who discovered a purse containing \$7,700 at the side of an interstate said turning the money in was the right thing to do.

The eight teenagers, all recent graduates of Smoky Valley High School in Lindsborg, said they discovered the purse at the side of Interstate 135 late May 16 and immediately decided to take it to the Lindsborg Police Station, The Kansas City (Mo.) Star reported June 24.

"It would have been an awesome summer if we'd kept it," said Becky Johnson, one of the teenagers. "But then, it wouldn't have been, either. There was just no way we were going to keep it."

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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