

The North Star

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



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Independence Run



Photo by Sgt. Chad Nelson, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Task Force Marne Commander Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, TF Marne command sergeant major lead the task force in a Worth Fighting For Independence Day Run, July 3, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher. The run was held to celebrate American independence and as a chance to show camaraderie among units on Speicher.

Scholarship program allows Soldiers to live up to dreams

By Sgt. Johnathon Jobson
TF Marne PAO

Each year division commanders are given the opportunity to send phenomenal Soldiers to college and then back to Army formations to be leaders by giving them the Commanding General's Green to Gold Hip Pocket Scholarship.

This program allows chosen Soldiers to complete two,

three or four years of college to attain their bachelor's degree as part of the school's Reserve Officers' Training Corps, known as ROTC, to receive their commission as a second lieutenant upon graduation.

"To receive the CG's Hip Pocket Green to Gold Scholarship, Soldiers must be the best at everything they do," said Sgt. Tracey Masdeu, an

awards and action noncommissioned officer with the 3rd Infantry Division G-1, of Thomasville, Ga.

"They have to have a high score on the Army physical fitness test, an A average in school. They only take the best Soldiers and NCOs to become officers. Once the Soldier receives the Scholarship, they are released from active duty and have to sign

a new contract for the time they will spend in ROTC. When they receive their commission they have the option to stay in the Army Reserve or return to active duty."

Sergeant DeAndre Hubbard, a human resource management sergeant with the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd ID, was one of

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Hometown heroes media plan culminates on FOX

By Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs
TF Marne PAO NCOIC

The graphic first started out as a blank map, but weekly it started to fill up with red dots. Those dots represented people throughout the United States learning about the lives, experiences and goals of Task Force Marne service-members and civilians.

“My Marne Hometown Hero” program kicked off May 15. The goal was for the Task Force Marne Public Affairs Office to facilitate 50 interviews in 50 days.

On Independence Day, the program was at day 49, and culminated with Task Force Marne being recognized on Fox and Friends for its success of telling the Soldiers’ stories.

“We conducted 78 interviews in 48 states,” said the Task Force Marne Commander, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, during the interview. “The whole purpose was to hit the local media with stories of their hometown heroes because we want to tell the story at the local level, where we know it will be received in a great way.”

Major General Cucolo and Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, the task force command sergeant major spoke to Fox’s audience of a potential one million viewers at the Contingency Operating Base Speicher Soccer Stadium. Standing behind them during the segment was 13 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians who participated in the program.

There were TV, newspaper and radio interviews conducted during that 50-day period. Staff Sergeant Amber Magel, an administrative law noncommissioned officer in charge, was highlighted in her Winchester, Va., home-



Photo by Sgt. Johnathon Jobson, TF Marne PAO

(Right) Task Force Marne Commander Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, TF Marne command sergeant major, along with 13 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians conduct an interview with Fox and Friends, July 4, at COB Speicher.

town newspaper. The focus was mainly about her experiences in Iraq and what she misses about home.

Staff Sergeant Magel said she felt proud to say that she is part of the mission to improve life for Iraqis. “We’re here to support the Iraqis the best way we can, and the paper did a good job explaining that,” she added.

This venture proved to Staff Sgt. Magel that she can handle talking to the media, and she said it was fun being on TV during the Fox and Friends interview.

In addition to the Public Affairs Office coordinating the interviews, the staff also submitted photos of the Soldiers to newspapers, facilitated the video link up with TV news stations, and through new technology, set up the

Skype interviews.

Corporal Virginia Ryan, a Jenna, La., native was interviewed by a Task Force Marne broadcaster. The video footage was then downloaded and run by an Alexandria, La., TV station.

“I’m the only Marine with the task force, and it was an honor to represent the Marine Corps during this program,” Cpl. Ryan said.

“I’ve learned that I have more confidence from this experience and from being here, and it’s because my section and the Army encourages me to do a good job.”

By close of business, July 5, the program will end with a New Jersey resident’s story being told. In the end 80 Task Force Marne Heroes stories were told in 49 states.

You are invited

Vertical Horizon

Where: FOB Marez

When: July 5

Where: FOB Warrior

When: July 6

Where: July 7,

South Speicher,

When: July 7

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

Sergeant Audie

Murphy Club

Induction Ceremony

Where: North MWR, COB

Speicher

When: July 22, 11:30 a.m.

Soldiers reflect on freedom, Independence Day

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

Freedom. A liberty that is so deeply reflected and described in the Bill of Rights of our U.S. Constitution is the root of what grew to become the Declaration of Independence, some 234 years ago.

Like love, freedom is both tangible and intangible, and at times, very measured.

It can be taken away as well as it can be given but - all the more reason Americans' independence will always be worth fighting for.

Since the American Revolutionary War, men and women have fought to attain and preserve what President Thomas Jefferson described in the Declaration of Independence as our "unalienable rights ... life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

"History shows that [many] sacrificed their lives and some of their freedoms for other people's freedoms,"

said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael S. McCoy, the top noncommissioned officer of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, out of Fort Riley, Kan.

"That's what we do in the military. We sacrifice a lot of our own freedoms to provide [and protect] the freedom of others and [our country]."

While many look forward to the Fourth of July for the numerous firework displays and extended weekends, Capt. Simon Welte, the commander of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, said that it's also important to remember the basis of the holiday – commemorating America's freedom.

"I think that the Fourth of July is one of the greatest holidays that the United States of America has," said the Augusta, Ky., native.

"It's not only a time [for celebration], but it's also a time to be thankful for the ones who have given their lives for the freedoms that we have."



Courtesy Photo

What's worth fighting for?

**Katie Allen, the wife of
Maj. Jeff Allen says:
Family is worth fighting for.**

Continued from ROTC, Page 1

five Soldiers from the division to receive a scholarship through the CG's Green to Gold Hip Pocket scholarship program.

Sergeant Hubbard, a Delhi, La., native, looks forward to attending Columbia College in Missouri this fall and is honored to receive such a life changing award.

"First and foremost, having the chance to serve within the Marne Division is just an honor," said Sgt. Hubbard. "However, being selected by the CG for this magnificent opportunity such as the Green to Gold Scholarship Program is just a dream come true.

"It has already impacted my career in many aspects. I will continue to give the utmost professionalism, maturity, tenacity and aptitude to truly excel in every capacity. I'm not only confident that I will perform above reproach

as a student, but also be an invaluable contributor to the ROTC program; bringing priceless 'real-world' active duty experience to the student body.

"With that said, upon graduating I would love to come back and serve with my Dog Face Soldiers."

Currently deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan, with the 3rd CAB in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Sgt. Hubbard has also been deployed once to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since he enlisted in November 2005.

Sergeant Hubbard's acceptance in the Green to Gold Program is not the beginning of his college career. Continuing his education has been one of the ways he has passed the time while in Afghanistan.

"During this deployment, I've continued to further my

education," Sgt. Hubbard said.

"I finished fifteen semester hours of college course work, to include working out in the gym, and developing my junior Soldiers to become future leaders."

Even though he is working towards a degree in criminal justice, Sgt. Hubbard plans to be an officer in the infantry branch upon receiving his commission saying, it will assist him with his leadership skills, which will follow him to any branch that he may transfer to in the future.

For Sgt. Hubbard, receiving the scholarship is a way to fulfill both childhood and future goals and live up to what his grandfather told him as a child.

"As a child, my grandfather always told me, I was a "special" kid in his eyes and God had something great in

store for me," explained Sgt. Hubbard. "One of my goals as an adolescent was to be the first of my siblings to graduate from college with a bachelor's degree. The CG's Green to Gold Hip Pocket Scholarship has given me that opportunity to accomplish that dream. My future goal is to become an Officer in the United States Army and continue to serve the people of the United States of America."

The 3rd Infantry Division Commanding General Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo awarded the fiscal year 2010 scholarships to:

Sergeant 1st Class Casey Gregg, Division Special Troops Battalion; Sgt DeAndre Hubbard, 3rd CAB; Sgt. Jeffrey Bush, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team; Spc. Eric Talavera, 3rd CAB; and Spc. Shane Mummert, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Specialist Gretchen Rofkar, of Port Clinton, Ohio, is with the 18th Human Resources Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade. She works as a Personnel Accountability Team specialist for the Joint Base Balad passenger terminal. She provides accountability for transient personnel at JBB, including reception, replacement, return-to-duty, rest and recuperation leave, and redeployment. Specialist Rofkar exemplifies selfless service and has shown great motivation throughout her tour. She always takes the initiative to ensure that all R&R personnel entering and departing JBB are properly briefed and manifested for their flights. Specialist Rofkar constantly coordinates with the Air Force and K.B.R. to ensure all passengers are accommodated during the frequent weather delays or in the case of maintenance cancellations. During the month of May, she helped process more than 31,605 passengers and her willing attitude makes her an outstanding choice for today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carl Smith, of New Orleans, is with 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. His skill and continued hard work with the video feed systems for the CAB Hunter directly increased the overall success of the unmanned aerial surveillance mission in Task Force Marne. Specifically, CW2 Smith's coordination and employment of the Hunter unmanned aerial vehicle, allowed for rapid surveillance of troops recently involved in a vehicle borne improvised explosive device attack. His efforts have led directly to effective employment, intelligence for follow-on missions, and evidence against captured enemy personnel. Additionally, he flew the CAB Hunter and managed the UAS Troop's computer/automation program. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Smith's dedication and commitment to excellence set the example for his peers and Soldiers to emulate and make him an obvious choice as today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

On this day, July 5, in history ...

www.history.com

1775 - Congress adopted the Olive Branch Petition, which appealed directly to King George III to attempt reconciliation with Great Britain.

1861 - The first major battle between the North and the South occurred at Carthage, Missouri. Both sides declared victory after the outnumbered north withdrew.

1865 - William and Catherine Booth established what would eventually become the Salvation Army, in London.

1921 - The Chicago White Sox went on trial, accused of throwing the 1919 World Series.

1940 - Congress passed the Export Control Act, forbidding the exporting of aircraft parts, chemicals and other goods without a license, as a response to Japan's occupation of the Indo-Chinese coast.

1959 - American visitors to the Soviet National Exhibition in New York City expressed very strong anti-Soviet views in the guestbooks to the exhibition. The comments went against the exhibition's purpose of bringing more cultural understanding between the two nations.

1975 - Arthur Ashe became the first African-American man to win Wimbledon, the most coveted tennis championship.

BOB ON THE FOB by SGT Albert J. Merrifield

I, UH, NEED TO GET OVER TO THAT PATROL BASE TO CHECK THEIR, UMM, SENSITIVE ITEM INVENTORIES, 'CAUSE UMM... WELL, I JUST NEED TO DOUBLE CHECK 'EM...

WHY CAN'T WE HAVE SOME MORTARS LAND ON OUR FOB (NOT NEAR MY CHU, OF COURSE) SO I CAN GET MY CAR THAT WAY? THAT WAY I WOULDN'T HAVE TO LEAVE THE SAFETY OF THE FOB, AND I'D STILL BE ABLE TO SHOW OFF A NEW PIECE OF COMBAT BLING WHEN I GET BACK...

MAN, THAT BADGE IS GONNA LOOK SO SWIFT ON MY CLASS A'S... I WONDER IF THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE A "COMBAT ACTION BADGE" LICENSE PLATE? I'D PUT THAT ON MY CAR IN A HEARTBEAT...

CAB chaser n. (kāb' chā-sər)

1. Denizen of the FOB, closely related to the CHU-dwelling Fobbit. While at first glance the CAB chaser may appear to be the opposite of the Fobbit (Fobbits find any reason possible to stay on the FOB, CAB chasers find any reason possible to leave the FOB in hopes of getting their Combat Action Badge), in all actuality they're just a close cousin of the Fobbit, for as soon as they receive their CAB they revert to standard Fobbit activity and inaction, staying firmly entrenched in their office and CHU.
(See also *Patchfinder*)

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Window installer stuck on top of Atlanta tower

Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Atlanta - Two window installers who dangled at the top of Atlanta's tallest building until their rescue June 28 afternoon didn't think it was a big deal.

One of them, William Miller, later recalled how he reacted when a firefighter referred to him as a "victim" after he was plucked from a basket hanging outside the 47th floor of the Bank of America tower. "Whoa, whoa," Miller interjected. "I'm not a victim."

Miller and Paul Barker had installed a window on the 23rd floor of the 55-story tower and were raising their platform to the top when the motor malfunctioned, Capt. Jolyon Bundrige of the Atlanta Department of Fire and Rescue told the AJC.

That was just before 1 p.m. During the nearly two hours until their rescue, the Atlanta Contract Glazing employees said in an interview afterward, they passed the time chatting on cellphones, taking pictures and enjoying the view. Miller, who e-mailed photos of his predicament to his girlfriend, said it was all part of a day's work and no big deal.

But Atlanta firefighters took it seriously. Bundrige said his department dispatched 58 rescuers and 13 vehicles to ensure their safety.

The extraction began after 2 p.m. Video footage from a WSB-

TV helicopter showed a firefighter descending from the building's roof down to the basket, attaching himself to the men and hoisting them up, one at a time. The firefighter was Justin Hodges of company 14, Bundrige said.

The operation temporarily closed Peachtree Street at the intersection with North Avenue and captured the attention of nearby residents.

Tracy Morgan, who lives in a building on Piedmont Avenue, spied the action through a pair of binoculars. She saw a man who seemed to be casually talking on his cellphone and waving to people below.

People in those jobs are probably comfortable with heights, Morgan said.

"If you're panicking," she said, "it's probably not the job for you."

Washington residents start phone book rebellion

Seattlepi.com

SEATTLE -David Abad spent part of his Monday afternoon dropping off a load of phone books at Seattle City Hall to make a point.

"I think it's a waste," he said. "I haven't used a phone book since the '80s, honestly."

He says no one who lives in his 45-unit building in Capitol Hill wanted the phone books. They never asked for them, and they don't want them again, he said.

But the pile of phone books has been an annual rite of summer,

despite their increasing obsolescence in the face of the Internet and other easy-to-access directories.

City Councilman Mike O'Brien wants to stop the distribution of unwanted phone books.

"Residents pick up a stack of phone books and immediately drop it in the garbage or recycling, and we have to pay to dispose of that," O'Brien says. "We estimate the costs at about \$200,000 a year."

O'Brien may push for a measure requiring phone book publishers to pay for the disposal costs, or provide a better opt-out system.

The Yellow Pages Association says it does have a website where you can opt out for free, but the complaint has been it doesn't really work.

You have to enter your zip code and then contact by phone or another website each of the companies sending you yellow pages.

O'Brien says he went through the opt-out process two months ago, but "[June 26], I was sitting in my window and here comes the Dex guy and dropped off a bag of phone books for me."

The city has received a bid from CatalogChoice, a nonprofit group that lets users opt out of various direct mail services and phone book deliveries. Executive Director Chuck Teller says the bid was \$10,000 each year for three years.

The company would build a website for Seattle residents and track the "opt-out" requests for use by the city.

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
135th Mobile Public
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