

# The North Star

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



Volume 1, Issue 108

July 14, 2010

## TF Lobos conducts bone marrow drive

By Sgt. 1st Class C. Tyrone Marshall  
25CAB, 25th Inf. Div. PAO

*More than 2,000 personnel registered*

For nearly 25 years, the Department of Defense has championed bone marrow registration through the C.W. Bill Young DoD Marrow Donor Program to assist thousands of people searching for bone marrow.

The Soldiers of 209th Aviation Support Battalion, Task Force Lobos, led Task Force Wings' efforts, registering 2,050 people at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, from June 22 through June 26.

Staff Sergeant Brian Cashell, Company B, 209th ASB, TF Lobos, of Cincinnati, Ohio, spearheaded the week-long, all-volunteer initiative, as he has done previously in Hawaii.

Staff Sergeant Cashell oversaw a blood drive and bone marrow registration drive at Wheeler Army Airfield in Hawaii, with nearly 1,500 people registering. He discussed his desire to continue helping others.

"I read a quote a long time ago that I liked [by Albert Pike]; 'What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others in the world remains and is immortal.' I've always liked that and I realized this is something that should be ongoing."

Having held a successful bone marrow drive in Hawaii, Staff Sgt. Cashell knew he'd need a new pool of potential donors to be successful.

"I realized I pretty much dried up the well within this brigade last year. So we found a new pool with 3rd Infantry Division and all the civilians here. Instead of trying to do it one more time

back in Hawaii and get fewer numbers, I figured I'd expose more people to it and educate them about the [C.W. Bill Young DoD Marrow Donor Program]. A lot of people didn't know what it was about or what was going on. This way we've enlightened more people about the need for bone marrow donors."

The Soldiers of TF Lobos supported the initiative with Companies A, B and C, all providing personnel. The unit's determination to exceed their 2,000-person registration goal meant using multiple locations throughout COB Speicher, to include the dining facilities and the main Post Exchange. Their presence motivated other Soldiers to register, including Pfc. Tiffany Gordon.

"[I registered] because I enjoy giving back," said Pfc. Gordon, a legal specialist and native of New York City, N.Y., with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade. "I like to do things to help other people, especially children."

She continued, "I felt good. I was nervous at first because I heard the [actual marrow transplant] procedure is painful. But I like to give back and any [discomfort] would be worth it if somebody else could live because of me."

According to Staff Sgt. Cashell, the registration and selection process is simple and quite painless. After four "cheek" swabs, each individual is registered as a potential volunteer marrow donor. Each participant's tissue type is then determined and entered into

the DoD and other national registries. Once registered, marrow transplant medical teams throughout the U.S. and the world can search the registries to determine if their HLA type matches the HLA type of a patient who needs a transplant.

Staff Sergeant Cashell hopes the bone marrow registration continues and made a compelling point for continuing the program even after he departs TF Wings.

"I think the statistics are for every 300 people that register, one of them will be a match. So between our last two drives, we've gotten over 3,000 people to register. So we've [potentially] got at least 10 matches right there off the bat. The only downside to this is once you register, you're in the system and don't need to be re-registered, making it harder to [get donor volunteers from the same population], unlike blood drives where the same volunteer can give more than once."

With the support of every echelon of his chain of command, Staff Sgt. Cashell and his team were able to achieve their goal of at least 2,000 registrations.

"Everybody was very supportive of the program and it worked out well. I'm very glad people came out and actually supported us. [And a special thanks to] all of the volunteers that helped me out, giving up their personal time. This is something that everyone should take on so it spreads throughout the Army. [Hopefully,] we can get a majority of the DoD registered."

# Tough - not too hard for the 2-25th CAB crew chiefs

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

"If you really think about it, it's a very dangerous job. On top of your regular job stress, you have a 16,000-pound piece of metal which could fall out of the sky at any time. And then, you're flying around a place where people could shoot you out of the sky."

That, according to Spc. Tony Moreno, 28, of San Diego, Calif., a member of the "Blackjacks," of Company A., 2nd Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, operationally attached to the 2nd Battalion, 159th Attack Readiness Brigade, is only part of what a crew chief endures.

A crew chief carries an immense amount of responsibility, ranging from maintenance and daily inspections, to assisting the pilots in maneuvering the aircraft, providing security, and loading and unloading passengers.

The unit, based out of Wheeler

Army Air Field, Oahu, Hawaii, is currently deployed to Mosul, Iraq, where its 20 enlisted Soldiers and officers and are responsible for air transport, direct support, and general support missions for the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Despite the long hours, endless paperwork and daily repetition, Spc. Moreno describes being a crew chief, as "an awesome job."

"You have to fill out a ton of reports, the mission changes on an hourly basis and it's pretty hard work at times. But for the most part, it's pretty rewarding," he said.

Specialist Moreno's day begins bright and early as he begins work on the pre-flight log three hours prior to flight time.

A part of the "pre-flight of the pre-flight," the log book tracks faults, hours flown and inspections.

Once the log book is completed, it's time to load up the considerable amount of gear needed for the mis-

sion, from helmets, goggles and protective equipment to weapons.

Next begins the actual helicopter inspection.

Crew chiefs, Spc. Moreno and Sgt. Fred Oser, 28, of Glen Dale, W.V., spend quality time with the aircraft, ensuring everything is fully functional.

These pre-flight checks are part of a daily ritual, with the Soldiers following specific guidelines which emerge into a well-practiced pattern.

After everything is opened and they've completed their examination, it's the pilots' turn.

"You want to have as many eyes as you can look over the bird. You can't pull over onto the side of the road if you have an issue, so it's good to find the problems before the rotors turn," said Spc. Moreno.

Information is then shared in the crew brief, providing insight into the day's mission, aircraft limitations and

**See CAB, Page 3**



Photo by Spc. Gregory Gieske, 2nd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

Posting security just outside the walls of a Combined Security Checkpoint, Sgt. Fred Oser, a crew chief with Co. A., 2-25, CAB, attached to 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, stands watch for hostile threats as U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi dignitaries board a UH-60 Black Hawk before taking off in the Ninewa province, July 2.



**Continued from CAB, Page 2**

search and rescue data, before going over worst-case scenarios.

Whatever time remains, belongs to the crew, as they get ready for the flight.

"It's a nice, quiet moment before the blades start turning, people are talking and things get loud," said Spc. Moreno, who makes the most of this opportunity to hang out, listen to music, or swing by the Post Exchange for snacks.

The aircraft is then fired up for its final checks.

The crew chiefs assist by confirming

there's movement on the collective, the rotors are pitched, and the engines are running properly.

"From the warrant officers, to the entire crew, there's no one guy in charge. It's a team effort, with everyone working together to ensure the helicopter lifts off and sets down safely," said Spc. Moreno.

Chief Warrant Officer Dan Hansen, 28, of Montgomery, Ala., said the Hawaii-based unit has the best crew chiefs, and the pilots wouldn't be able to do their job without them.

"Most of our crew chiefs exhibit



Photo by Spc. Gregory Gieske, 2nd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO  
**Specialist Tony Moreno, a crew chief with Co A., 2-25th CAB, attached to 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, prepares the cockpit for the day's mission from Contingency Operation Site Diamond-back, Mosul, Iraq, July 2.**

trademark traits – they're self-starters. They're very motivated and they have to work independently. They're trustworthy and their maintenance requirements are done exactly a certain way. The way we operate, if we don't have people looking for a mistake, it could cost several people their lives.

"When we're up front, our field of reference is what we see. Our situational awareness and everything having to do with our passengers depends on them once we land and take off. When it comes to obstacle clearance, you don't question what they say, you react," Chief Warrant Officer Hansen said.

According to 31-year old pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Matt Lamoreaux, they are a close-knit group of people who have to be able to work with different groups every day.

"They have to know how each pilot wants their aircraft set up, so they have to know each pilot's idiosyncrasies. The crew chiefs have their official guidelines, but we have our own pet peeves and they meet it without missing a beat.

"They're definitely professional," continued the Eureka, Calif., native. "They take a lot of slack from us, but they're definitely what makes this bird run. Crew chiefs not only service us, but they have to adapt to their customers as well. They have to be very flexible, with everything they deal with."

"They're enlisted Soldiers sitting right next to Iraqi and American generals and they're constantly under the microscope. They maintain their professionalism at all times and represent us very well," added Chief Warrant Officer Lamoreaux.

## Marne All Stars



Photo by Sgt. Johnathon Jobson, TF Marne PAO

**Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Scott, the division asset visibility officer in charge for Task Force Marne G-4, competes in the Marne All-Star fastest pitch competition, July 13. To celebrate the Major League Baseball All-Star opening game, TF Marne held their own day's activities, which included the fastest pitch tournament, baseball trivia, and a hotdog eating contest. Read more about Marne All Stars in Friday's North Star.**

## Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Mark Bishop, a native of Cape Town, South Africa, is the Food Service Manager with KBR Inc., at Freedom Rest North and provides first-class service to Task Force Marne and Soldiers across northern Iraq. Bishop has worked in food service for over 25 years and has served on COB Speicher with KBR for five years. The care and attention to detail he exhibits in caring for Soldiers every day is a testament to his dedication and marks him as a true member of the team. He routinely executes special events and caters to Soldiers on their four-day pass to Freedom Rest, laboring diligently to make their stay memorable. Bishop and his team provided expert support to a recent conference for 120 Department of Defense and Department of State employees. The event would not have been a success without Bishop's team and their flawless execution of the complex two-day event. The Freedom Rest staff's excellent service and hospitality is a direct reflection of his stellar leadership, making him an excellent choice for this week's TF Marne Service Provider of the Week.



Michael McCormac, a native of Atlanta, Ga., is the lead Very Small Aperture Terminal Field Service Representative for United States Division -North with telecommunications systems. He supports the VSAT and network access point, or secure and non-secure access points, terminals throughout USD -N. McCormac services over 50 terminals and provides on-site training to Soldiers to give them the skills to best accomplish their mission. Regardless of the time or place, McCormac is available to meet Soldiers' needs and frequently travels to remote locations with little notice. During a recent series of VSAT and SNAP outages, McCormac spent countless hours coaching the Camp Victory HUB personnel and troubleshooting each and every terminal to reduce the machines' bit error rate and improve their isolation values. McCormac's actions demonstrate that he embodies selfless service and dedication to duty. His actions reflect great credit upon him and the TCS team, making him a natural choice this week's Task Force Marne Service Provider of the Week.

## The Fayli Kurds

### Cultural Tidbit Special to the North Star

The Fayli Kurds are an integral part of the Kurdish people and they speak the Kurdish language in the Laurie dialect. The roots of the Fayli Kurds go back to the Indo-Aryan immigrants of the first millennium B.C. Faylis embraced Islam since the very beginning of the Islamic conquest of Iraq and Persia (Iran). When the Safavid (1507-1721) held the power in Persia, the Fayli Kurds converted to Shiaism as a result of being so near to Persia and being exposed to conquering Persian leaders. They were being subjected to their control in different periods of history.

Since ancient times, the Faylis have lived in the border area between Iraq and Iran, which consist of the Zagros Mountains and cliffs. They live on the two sides of this mountain in Iran and Iraq, and they call it Kabier Koh, which means "The great mountain". In Iraq they live east of Diyala province (Khaniqin, Meqdadia, Mandali). However,

as early as the first decade of the 20th century, many Faylis moved to Baghdad.

In modern times, the Faylis have been subjected to state persecution. They are considered a stateless people, with both Iraq and Iran claiming that Fayli are citizens of the other country. In the mid 1970s, Iraq expelled around 40,000 Faylis who had lived for generations near Baghdad and Khanaqin, alleging that they were Iranian nationals. The Faylis suffered severe oppression under Saddam Hussein and his Ba'athist government. They joined others in opposing the dictatorial government in Iraq and fought alongside other Iraqis. Faylis also joined national Iraqi parties such as the Iraqi Communist Party, the Kurdish Democratic Party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and the National Kurdish Association.

Many Faylis were involved in the ruling Ba'ath party, though most of those were subsequently either demoted in Ba'ath party rank or simply removed by Saddam Hussein.

During the 80s, a large segment of the Fayli population in Baghdad was

deported to the Iranian border by Iraqi police and intelligence units. Their properties were seized and the Faylis were stripped of their legal documents and citizenship. The Faylis were effectively rendered into foreigners bereft of rights. Many of the targeted families carried significant influence on a large spectrum of Iraqi society, having a high level of education, commercial success and ranking positions in the military. The Ba'athist regime, fearing potential dissidence and opposition, implemented deportation policies against Faylis. The official claim was that Faylis were Iranian nationals.

Adult males between the ages of 18-55 were detained and sent to various prison complexes in the country, with no legal procedures such as trials being taken before incarceration. It is estimated that between 13,000 and 30,000 Faylis died under the conditions of captivity and systematic murder by the Ba'athist intelligence apparatus.

*Editor's note: The Task Force Marne Human Terrain Analysis Team contributed to this cultural tidbit.*

## REGIONAL HEADLINES

# Texan may be world's luckiest lottery winner

[msnbc.com](http://msnbc.com)

**Texas** - The luckiest person in the world?

Look no farther than Joan Ginther, at least when it comes to winning the lottery.

Since 1993, the 63-year-old woman has won four windfalls on the Texas Lottery, each time winning more than \$1 million for a total of \$20.4 million.

The most recent win that has everyone talking: \$10 million in a scratch-off game called "\$140,000,000 Extreme Payout."

Not only has each ticket been bought in Texas; two of the tickets have been bought in the same store, right in Bishop, Ginther's town of birth where neighbors say she comes back every so often to visit her father and, apparently, try her luck.

"This is a very lucky store," Bob Solis, the manager of Times Store, told the Corpus Christi, Tex.,-based Caller Times as news about the most recent win began to circulate, July 2. The owner said the store sells an average of 1,000 tickets a day.

**4 Texas Lottery wins, \$20.4 million**  
Ginther's first windfall came 17

years ago, when she won \$5.4 million in a "Lotto Texas" game. She opted to have that sum paid out annually over 19 years.

The remaining wins came from scratch-off tickets.

In 2006 and in 2008, Ginther won two separate games that brought in a total of \$5 million. She asked for both of those sums to be paid out in lump.

The most recent win, which officials estimate will hover at around \$7.5 million after taxes, will also be paid out in lump sum.

The revelation of Ginther's rather miraculous streak of luck over the last 17 years has garnered international attention – and wonder – over the past few days.

"This final bit of winning lottery must confirm Mrs. Ginther as the world's luckiest lottery winner," World Lottery News said in a statement.

The Daily Telegraph newspaper reported that the odds of winning four lottery jackpots is more than 200 million to 1.

**Elusive winner 'born under a lucky star'**

And as for the woman behind the massive checks from Texas Lottery?

It seems Ginther is almost as elusive as the mystery to her winning ways. Ginther has requested minimal publicity from the Texas Lottery and has not returned any phone calls to any media outlets that have reached out to her since, July 2.

Public records reveal, however, that she currently lives in Las Vegas, Nev., and neighbors have told several media outlets that she returns home to see her father in Bishop, Tex., where she frequently stops in to Times Store to buy a lottery ticket.

"It's incredible for the store owner," Texas Lotto Director Bobby Heith told the Caller Times. "Most of our 16,000 retail stores have never sold a winning ticket."

The store itself will get \$10,000 for selling the most recent winning ticket.

Regardless of who Ginther is or how she is able to pick 'em, Heith told the Caller Times that one thing was clear. "She's obviously been born under a lucky star."

### You are invited

#### Ja Rule

Where: FOB Warrior

When: July 19

Where: COB Speicher

When: July 20

### Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Induction & MG Aubrey

#### "Red" Newman

#### Award Ceremony

Where: North MWR,

COB Speicher

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

### University of Maryland University College Europe Celebrates 60 years

Where: Education Center,

COB Speicher

When: August 6, 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### THE

## North Star

*The North Star* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of *The North Star* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 3rd Infantry Division. All editorial content of *The North Star* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Task Force Marne Public Affairs Office.

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

### TASK FORCE MARNE

Commanding General - Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo

Command Sergeant Major - Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse L. Andrews Jr.

#### Task Force Marne Public Affairs Staff

TF Marne PAO - Maj. Jeff Allen

TF Marne PA NCOIC - Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs

TF Marne Writer - Sgt. Johnathon Jobson

#### Editorial Staff

Managing Editor - Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs

Editor - Sgt. Jessica Rohr

Assistant Editor - Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Trowbridge

25th Combat Aviation Brigade,  
25th Infantry Division  
135th Mobile Public  
Affairs Detachment