

The North Star

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



Volume 1, Issue 109

July 16, 2010

'Dragon' brigade cases colors, ends current mission

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

Inside of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's headquarters building at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Col. Hank Arnold and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael S. McCoy, the commander and top noncommissioned officer of the 'Dragon' brigade, case their unit's colors during a Colors Casing ceremony, July 15.

During the ceremony, the Task Force Marne Commander, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo thanked the 'Dragon' brigade for a job well done.

"In this amazing and important area of Iraq, Hank, you and Command Sgt. Maj. McCoy and the brigade operated with great success," Maj. Gen. Cucolo said during his speech.

"Any attempt by me to describe your success would be weak and fall short; so, let me just say congratulations on a duty well performed," he continued. "You took a tough battle space with incredible promise and proved to our Iraqi brothers and sisters and our Army how adaptable the American Soldier can be."

"Warriors you bring a fresh look, tremendous energy and a wealth of experience to Salah ad-Din," Maj. Gen. Cucolo concluded as he welcomed the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. The Hawaii-based unit will be replacing the 'Dragon' brigade in Salah ad-Din and Diyala provinces.

"You will do great, and Task Force Marne is honored to have you in our formation," added Maj. Gen. Cucolo.

Since deploying to the Salah ad-Din



Photo by Sgt. Shantelle Campbell, 4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO
(Right) Col. Hank Arnold and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael S. McCoy, the commander and top NCO of the 4th IBCT, 1st ID, out of Ft. Riley, Kan., case their unit's colors during a Colors Casing ceremony at COB Speicher, July 15.

province, last fall, the 'Dragon' brigade oversaw a successful parliamentary election in March and returned 12 of 18 military bases to the Iraqi government.

The brigade also worked hand-in-hand with the U.S. State Department Provincial Reconstruction team to complete several projects aimed to better the economy and provide a better quality of life for the people of Salah ad-Din.

This was the second time the 'Dragon' brigade deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2007 the brigade deployed to Baghdad during the surge where they conducted full-spectrum combat operations. This deployment they performed a completely different mission as part of the historic transition to stability operations and transition of U.S. forces out of Iraq.

"We took over an operating environment that was already moving forward, and we continued to improve upon that

operating environment and made it better than what it was," said Col. Arnold. "We had extremely successful results with improving the capability of the security forces and extremely successful results with improving the capability of the governance. We had direct impact on improving the economic condition of the people here in Salah ad-Din."

"We accomplished our mission, and we get to finish this mission with honor and go home knowing that we participated in a very important part in the history of Iraq and in the Iraqi people," concluded Col. Arnold. "By being here, this year, serving the Iraqi people, we have served our Nation."

With the ceremony officially signifying the end of a successful mission in Iraq, units of the 'Dragon' brigade have already begun to redeploy to Fort Riley, Kan. The rest of the brigade is expected to return to Fort Riley by the end of the summer.

Red Leg Raceway offers welcome respite from Iraq duties

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

The sound reaches you first. A low-pitched drone, like a swarm of angry hornets, winds its way through the hot, dry air near the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery headquarters here on Contingency Operating Site Marez.

Dust flies up from behind a line of Hesco barriers, just beyond a parking area full of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles and armored tanks, softly filtering through a bank of electrical lights.

It's Saturday night. Once the sun goes down and the lights come up, it's race time at Red Leg Raceway in Mosul, Iraq.

The 300-foot long, five-turn, four-jump raceway offers racing in its simplest form – there are no club memberships, track or entry fees. More importantly, it provides a welcome respite from the grind of daily missions for the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers and civilians stationed here.

According to track organizer and racer, Chief Warrant Officer Dan Howison, a battalion maintenance mechanic technician with the 1/9th FA, it took about a month for him and co-founder, Sgt. 1st Class Peter Ruiz, to build the track up to its present standard.

"The original pad was a flat pile of dirt with three jumps. Over time, we moved more than seven dumptruck loads of dirt in by hand, shovel, sandbag, wheelbarrow and gator vehicle.

The Raceway debuted Feb. 7, on a Sunday afternoon, with 12 racers and four classes. Race night was changed to 7 p.m. on Saturday evenings to ensure more participation and to avoid the heat. High temperatures aren't just a stressor for the drivers and fans, but for the equipment, as well. It's hard to set a car up to run in 65-70 degree temperatures, and expect the same performance at 100 degrees or higher.

Racers show up as early as 5 p.m. to get a spot in the pits. Drivers sign out track-provided transponders so their laps will be scored by the digital counter. Once everyone has signed in, the order of the race classes are drawn from a hat.

The track sanctions nine different classes that includes an SC10 two-wheel drive class, a Buggy/Truggy class and a Monster Truck class.

The most popular class, by far, is the SC10 4wd, with approximately seven to 10 cars racing each Saturday. That's just one of the five vehicles Chief Warrant Officer Howison owns and runs.

"We average around 35 cars per race night and have seen as many as

65 on any one night," said Chief Howison. "The average has dropped a bit in the last month from around 48, with the heat and people being on leave."

While the track is used daily for practice, it's shut down on Fridays for maintenance and is off-limits until the green flag drops on race night. Volunteers spread fresh dirt, repair jumps, fix pot holes, rake and sweep rocks away, and then water the track. They also replace sandbags, repair the pipes lining the raceway, police the area, take out the trash and refill the fuel cans, light sets and refrigerator.

Chief Warrant Officer Howison said the best part of the whole Mosul race experience is the camaraderie. Racers help each other out by sharing strategy, parts and set-up tips. They never hesitate to encourage each other and lend a hand wherever needed.

"You can walk up to the track, car in hand as a complete stranger and you automatically become part of the group. If you need help, someone is always there to offer assistance. I have made friends with guys I would otherwise never have met.

"Although points officially go to individual cars and drivers, we have competing race teams and the competitiveness is very high. But it's not so serious we forget about the basics. There's no one who won't help someone just because he's on the opposite team. I won a race one night using parts I borrowed from one of my competitors on a rival team.

"Everyone helps out because we know how long it takes to get the parts you need over here and we all know how bad it feels to be sidelined on race night due to slow shipping."

It's actually a great morale booster, said Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Buckley, a 1/9th FA battle captain, and Fort Stewart, Ga., resident.

"I just came out one night and saw people racing around with their RC cars. I never had an RC car before, so I just decided to get into it and ever since, I've been doing it for about six months now," said Sgt. 1st Class Buckley.

"It gives you something to do on

See RACE, Page 4



Photo by Master Sgt. Duff McFadden, 2nd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

A Traxxas Jato kicks up dirt as it flies out of the final turn at the Red Leg Raceway at COS Marez. The five-turn, 300-foot track, built as a labor of love by Soldiers of the 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, provides a welcome respite from daily missions in Mosul, Iraq.

Marne All-Stars

Baseball events hit homerun on COB Speicher



Photo by Sgt. Johnathon Jobson, TF Marne PAO

Sergeant James Jenkins, a multichannel systems operator with the JNN section of the TF Marne G-6, competes in the Marne All-Stars hot dog eating contest, July 13. The Marne All-Stars competition as held to give Soldiers and civilians a sense of being part of the MLB All-Star Game.

**By Sgt. Johnathon Jobson
TF Marne PAO**

Soldiers from the Task Force Marne G-4 sponsored the Marne All-Stars competition in Iraq, July 13, at division headquarters as a way to celebrate the Major League Baseball All-Star game. That morning, baseball related activities gave the Dog Face Soldiers a chance to get out of their cubicles and away from their computers.

The activities included a fastest pitch contest, baseball trivia, and a hot dog eating contest. There was something for everyone.

The fastest pitch contest was the morning's first event and more than 30 people competed to have the strongest arm. The male winner was Mel Hall, a social scientist with the Human Terrain Analysis team from Alexandria, Va., with a 73 mph throw. Sergeant 1st Class Siatuu Quarterman, the G-1 plans and operations noncommissioned officer in charge and a native of American Samoa, threw a 45 mph pitch to become the female winner.

"For the fastest pitch competition, we had a backstop made of mattresses and a tarp and a home plate, the whole nine yards," explained Sgt. 1st Class David Reveal, the G-4 division as-

set visibility NCOIC. "We measured the speed with a radar gun that we borrowed from the Provost Marshal Office. The males threw regular baseballs and the females had the option to throw baseballs or softballs. The females also had the option to throw overhand or underhand since softball games are pitched underhand."

Sergeant 1st Class Carlos Gracia, the G-6 communications NCOIC and Brooklyn, N.Y., native, won the trivia contest by being the first person to name all the players and their positions from the comedy routine, "Who's on first?" by Abbott and Costello.

The day's main event was the hot dog eating contest. Instead of a standard contest where the contestants have three minutes to down as many hot dogs as possible, Soldiers competed to see who could eat three hotdogs in the shortest amount of time. Blowing away the competition, Staff Sgt. Steven Holloway, the operations NCO for the Division Engineer office and a native of Kissimmee, Fla., managed to beat the second place competitor by more than four minutes.

"My participation was impromptu [in the hot dog eating contest]," said Staff Sgt. Holloway. "One of my battle buddies said 'you can do this.' So I decided to compete and knocked out three hot dogs in two minutes and 35 seconds. Then they asked if anyone wanted to compete with just one hot dog. I went ahead and did that and won in 40 seconds. I have never done anything like this before and never will again."

"The whole point of the events were to give everyone a chance to build esprit de corps and have a way to participate in the All-Star Game, which was today," said Sgt. 1st Class Reveal. "We had great participation; I think a good time was had by all."

The MLB All-Star Game was held in Anaheim. The National League beat the American League 3-1. This was the first year since 1996 that the National League has won the All-Star Game. More than \$5 million dollars was raised for charities.



Photo by Sgt. Johnathon Jobson, TF Marne PAO

(left to right) Mel Hall, a social scientist with the Human Terrain Analysis Team, Sergeant 1st Class Siatuu Quarterman, the G-1 plans and operations NCOIC, Sergeant 1st Class Carlos Gracia, the G-6 communications NCOIC, and Staff Sgt. Steven Holloway, the operations NCO for the Division Engineer office, are the winners of the TF Marne All-Stars competition held July 13, at the division headquarters on COB Speicher.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North

"DOG FACE HERO"



Staff Sergeant Deno and Sgt. Nicholas Rempp, a Fort Myer, Va., native, of the 947th Military Police Detachment, were selected for their outstanding performance as a Patrol Detector Dog Team. Staff Sergeant Deno and Sgt. Rempp's ability to coordinate with units to establish excellent pre-mission rehearsals ensures the security team and Military Working Dog work as one unit. Staff Sergeant Deno and Sgt. Rempp have earned the confidence and respect of maneuver commanders they support with their tactical proficiency, competence, and ability to perform in any environment. Staff Sergeant Deno and Sgt. Rempp have conducted over 55 missions encompassing raids, cordon and searches, and force protection operations. They have increased explosive detection in their operating environment and made for an unbeatable team. When not on mission, Staff Sgt. Deno enjoys playing fetch with his favorite bone and hanging out with Sgt. Rempp. In order to recognize these accomplishments, they have been selected as this week's Task Force Marne "Dog Face" Heroes of the North.



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carl Smith, is a New Orleans, La., native with Troop F, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, out of Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii. 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, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Smith's coordination and employment of the Hunter unmanned aerial vehicle, allowed for rapid over watch 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 TF Marne Hero of the North.

Continued from RACE, Page 2

your off time and it really gives you something to look forward to each week. We all get together, both military and civilians, we race and we have a good time," he added.

Chief Warrant Officer Howison plans to continue racing once the unit returns to Ft. Stewart, Ga. He's already been in contact with the Phill Hurd Raceway in Savannah, Ga. While he's looking forward to racing and helping out there, he has an even bolder plan.

"I think we need to construct a track in the Fort Stewart area. It wouldn't take much – a power drop and some land and we could be operational. I would like to find a way to introduce this idea to someone back home who could help push it on post.

"There has to be a way to keep Fort Stewart Soldiers from driving back and forth to Savannah to race. There are a lot of tracks in the Jacksonville,

Florida, area as well, and I plan to hit them all. But the fact is, not every Soldier will have the opportunity, and I don't think any of them should miss out on the fun," Chief Warrant Officer Howison said.

The Raceway also sponsors a Facebook page called "Red Leg Racing, Mosul." The page features pictures, race results and point standings, as well as good-natured ribbing between the drivers.



Photo by Master Sgt. Duff McFadden, 2nd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO
Drivers man the tower, as the first heat of the Sports Class 10, Four-wheel Drive race gets underway at the Red Leg Raceway. The five-turn, 300-foot track, built as a labor of love by Soldiers of the 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, provides a welcome respite from daily missions in Mosul, Iraq.

Reminder for all redeploying Soldiers who participated in the Saving Deposit Program: Interest will accrue at the 10 percent rate up to 90 days after you return from your deployment.

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Old Spice Guy clinches a marriage proposal

Toronto Star

She said yes!

In the middle of a busy day of solving everyone's problems, making videos, and smelling fabulous, the Old Spice Guy sent Johannes S. Beals' girlfriend a personal video asking her to marry him.

To marry Beals, that is. OSG is busy. Seven hours later, Beals described himself as happily engaged.

Actor Isaiah Mustafa can do anything, as he's been telling you and showing you from a bathroom somewhere since February in his commercials as "the man your man could smell like." Now he's making custom videos.

It started with a post on Twitter saying, "Today could be just like the other 364 days you log into Twitter, or maybe the Old Spice man shows up @ OldSpice."

That was followed by a post on Reddit.com asking for questions. And a deluge of replies and videos to people who have written about him in the past, all without ever putting his shirt on.

The latest twist in the hugely popular ad campaigns featuring Mustafa is "a perfect storm of viralty," according to tech website Mashable.com. Not to mention virility.

"Not only does it target specific bloggers, it also reaches out to less prominent individuals (who) become personally invested in the brand because they have actually become part of the world it has created," says Mashable's Brenna Ehrlich.

The Old Spice commercials launched during the U.S. Super Bowl and carried through the Olympics and the World Cup. They've hit a combined 18 million views plus on YouTube, including one about how it was all done.

The 36-year-old actor told the Los Angeles Times in February that his smouldering, smug persona wasn't planned. He did an over-the-top version of his script into an answering machine for a friend, former Arizona Cardinals/Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer, and decided to keep it.

Mustafa comes by his athletic physique honestly: He was a receiver for the Seattle Seahawks and played in the NFL Europe league.

75-year-old woman drives car through liquor store -- again

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Atlanta - A 75-year-old woman drove her car through the front of an Atlanta liquor store, July 5, police said.

According to the incident report, Constance Chapman crashed her car into the front window of Green's package store.

Chapman said her brakes went out while she was attempting to pull into a parking space. She also told officers that this is the second time she has done this at Green's.

Jenetha Gardiner, who was working at Green's at the time of the accident, was right behind the window during the collision, the report said. The car pinned her between the broken window and a shelf, and she experienced head trauma from a falling bottle of alcohol, according to the report.

Gardiner was transported to Atlanta Medical Center by Grady EMS, police said.

Chapman was checked by Grady EMS as well, but said she would drive herself to the hospital, police said.

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: Aug. 6, noon - 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