

The North Star

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



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MG Cucolo posthumously awards Pershmerga

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



Photo by Spc. Cassandra Monroe, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Task Force Marne Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, presents the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device to a family member of one of two fallen Pershmerga, who were from 2nd Battalion, 12th Brigade, Peshmerga Army, July 18, at Camp Zaytun, Erbil, Iraq. The Pershmerga, who were part of Kurdish fighting forces, were killed in action, May 10, after they fired shots at a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device that entered their combined checkpoint, disabling the driver and setting off the vehicle bomb.

Task Force Marne Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, posthumously awarded two Iraqi Peshmerga the U.S. Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device, July 18, at Camp Zaytun, Erbil, Iraq. The awards were presented to the families of the fallen Kurdish Fighting Forces.

On behalf of all American forces, it is a distinct honor to be here today and to thank the families for the sacrifice of your loved ones, said Maj. Gen. Cucolo. This sacrifice sends a message to Iraqi and American partners at combined checkpoints that they are in this together, he continued. To the terrorists and enemies of Iraq, it sends another message: if the enemies challenge [the combined security forces], the combined security forces will fight as one, he added.

The two Peshmerga, Sgt. Qaes Ali Mohammed and Cpl. Farooq Rashed Ahmad, both with 2nd Battalion, 12th Brigade, Peshmerga Army, were honored because of their heroic efforts and sacrifices May 10, when a terrorist entered Combined Check Point 4,

a checkpoint where Americans join Iraqi, Peshmerga and Kurdish Security Forces to provide security in the local area. The terrorist aggressively drove a vehicle packed full of explosives into the checkpoint, prompting warning shots from the two Peshmerga on guard. They fired subsequent shots to stop the driver, ensuring that the vehicle could not enter the Life Support Area.

After the driver was disabled, he crashed into a series of barriers, setting off the vehicle bomb and killing the two Peshmerga.

During the ceremony, a moment of silence held as members of the ceremony and guests lit 14 candles to remember the fallen. Maj. Gen. Cucolo awarded the family members with the U.S. Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device and expressed deep gratitude for their loved ones' sacrifices.

"It is within my power to present this medal, which has a special letter on it, 'V,' for valor," he said, prior to awarding the families. "It

See AWARDS, Page 2

Taino Warriors



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

(Left) Lieutenant Colonel Hector M. Moran, executive officer for 166th Regional Support Group, and the 166th RSG Command Sgt. Maj. Rene R. Rivera, case their unit colors during a ceremony on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, July 20. Task Force Marne Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, thanked the troops of 166th RSG for providing their valued support on COB Speicher, most notably for the efforts in maintaining the base and beautifying the area. Throughout their deployment, the 166th RSG Soldiers completed several projects that improved the appearance and operation of the base, including the build-up of Taino Batey, a park on COB Speicher, and various projects that improved the safety of the bases' civilians and servicemembers. The 166th RSG will be replaced by the Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, currently stationed on COB Speicher.

Right - Soldiers from 166th RSG present their cased unit colors during a ceremony on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, July 20. The 166th RSG is redeploying after a year-long deployment. Among their many duties and responsibilities over the year were offering 24-hour service for servicemembers on base, making it easy for them to request vehicles and billeting. Even as the 166th RSG prepared for their redeployment, they ensured servicemembers were taken care of, making sure they had everything they needed for their movements back home.



Continued from AWARDS, Page 1

is military tradition to honor this medal for great courage and sacrifice. It is also tradition to present this medal to the family during a loss of life."

For one of the fallen's family members, this ceremony represented a lifelong path of securing and working toward freedom.

"To me this is normal, because we have sacrificed our lives since 1961," said Unice Mohammed Ali Abdullah, an uncle of one of the fallen. "[My Nephew] was murdered working for his freedom, for his people's freedom."

After awarding the medals to the family members, Maj. Gen. Cucolo visited with the children of the families, giving them 3rd Infantry Division Marne pendants.

Haitham Wahab Mohammed put on a bomb suit and diffused the vest, removed the body, and safely disabled the IED in the vehicle using a charge.

Once the charge was set off, Qaed Farhan Raheem, a bomb disposal soldier with 4th IA BDC, removed pieces of the detonated IED, deemed the area clear, making the exercise a success.

"We have a huge region to take care of, and so far with the training, we have not faced any difficulty," said 1st Lt. Mohammed. "We try to come [to the EOD training lane] at least twice a week to do training along with demolition."

In order to demonstrate the 4th IA BDC's capabilities to its leadership, 1st Lt. Mohammed also recorded the exercise with EOD Mobile Unit 2,

and broadcast noncommissioned officer, Sgt. Reinaldo Lopez, with Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Support, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Ga.

"As we go forward, it is the U.S. Navy support that is taking us forward with the information and training they provide us," said 1st Lt. Mohammed.

"Our whole goal here is to get the Iraqi bomb disposal unit to a point where we can withdraw and they can take over and continue the mission," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Kevin A. Borkowski, a native of Baltimore, Md., the leading chief petty officer with EOD Mobile Unit 2. "And right now they are doing a great job defeating the devices."

IPs, dogs build working relationship

By Spc. Jessica Zullig
135th Mobile PA Det.

An Iraqi Police team and their explosive detection dogs trained with the Speicher K-9 dog handlers at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, July 10.

Explosives of different amounts were hidden in vehicles and on the field. Dogs sniffed the air and ground, and became excited when they approached the hidden training aids. When explosives were found, the dogs sat near the source of scent until their handler rewarded them with a toy, words of praise and a pat on the back.

The IPs have been training with the U.S. military police assigned to Speicher K-9 and civilian police advisors with DynCorp for three months.

"When they first started, it was rough," said Sgt. Holly Johnson, an MP with Speicher K-9, and a Fort Lewis, Wash., native. "They've gotten to where they can give commands and the dogs will listen. They have a better under-

standing of their dogs than they did a month ago."

However, IP team commander, Capt. Jasim, said that they need more training and experience.

"We want to protect the people, but we are new," he said.

Training the IPs to work with explosive detection dogs is important to the transition to stability operations continuing in the Iraq theater. The IP team trains with Speicher K-9 once a week to ensure they can recognize when their dogs have found explosives.

"We want to pass on our knowledge to them," said Staff Sgt. Jodi Stone, a Stanwood, Wash., native and kennel master for Speicher K-9. "We want to help make them successful."

The IPs have a long road ahead, but the MPs with Speicher K-9 are confident they will succeed with continued training.

"They have the resources now to where they can get the job done just as well as we can," said Sgt. Johnson.

"Their dogs are up to the standards with what we

use. I think that it will be a success."

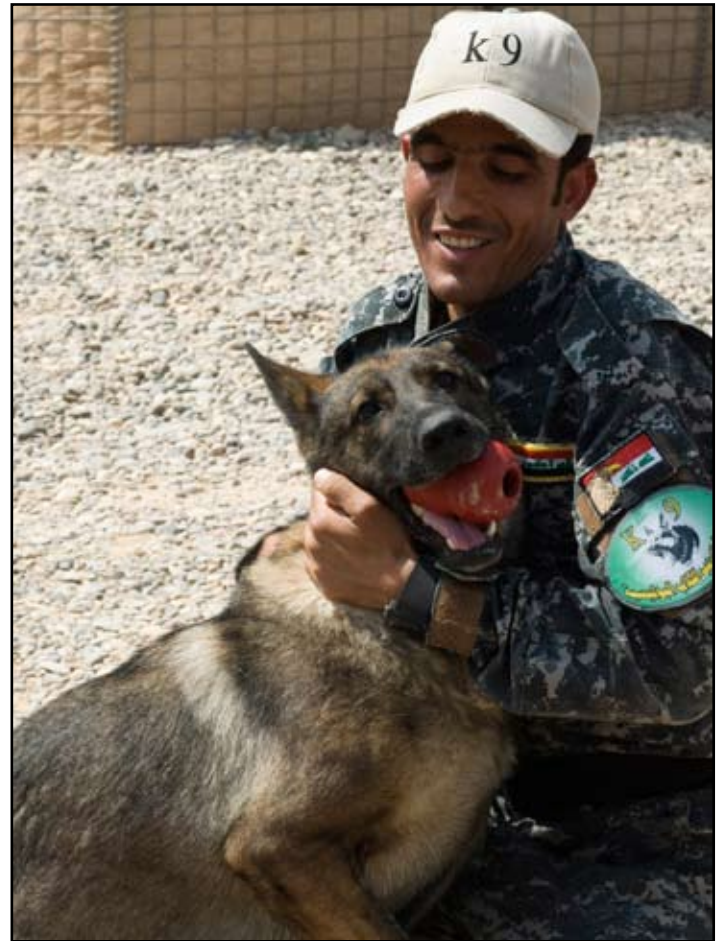


Photo by Spc. Jessica Zullig, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

An Iraqi policeman praises his explosive detector dog after finding explosives on a vehicle during training at COB Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq, July 10.

2010 brings major transformation to Basic Combat Training

This year, Basic Combat Training has gone through a transformation, according to Lt. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, deputy commanding general for Initial Military Training. Here are some of the changes you'll see in new Basic and One Station Unit Training courses.

1. Brigade Combat Teams has become more challenging not "softer." They have been extended from nine weeks to 10.

2. Rifle Marksmanship is more extensive, with more hours on the range, more bullets fired, and Soldiers using both basic and advanced techniques.

3. Combatives are more relevant and tougher. New instruction has been added which teaches Soldiers to fight

from their feet, not wrestle and grip on the ground. Soldiers now attend 22 hours of instruction.

4. Most up-to-date medical training in Tactical Combat Casualty Care and Combat Lifesaver.

5. Physical Training is standardized, with scientifically proven techniques that improve conditioning and help prevent injuries.

6. No more bayonet assault course against rubber tires but lots more pugil and combatives against a thinking opponent. The bayonet assault course has been a staple of bayonet training since World War I. But that's when bayonets were prevalent on the battlefield.

7. Expanded Values and Culture Training.

8. We're treating the Soldier as a "Tactical Athlete." The Surgeon General of the Army will begin supplementing initial training units with physical therapists and athletic trainers to prevent injuries.

9. We've instituted Comprehensive Soldier Fitness. Every Drill Sergeant has received Resiliency Training, and all new Soldiers take the Global Assessment Tool upon entering Basic.

10. We're connected to Social Media and on Web pages. Visit our social media sites and tell us what you think. We'll listen.

Written by Kelly Schloesser TRADOC

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Specialist Lee Tibert, a Minot, N.D., native, is a senior driver with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. Other drivers constantly follow Spc. Tibert's lead as he effectively positions his vehicle during implementation of counter anti-tank hand grenade tactical techniques and procedures. As the senior specialist in his platoon, he was hand-picked by his platoon leader to take on the responsibility of using the mine roller during various missions, including those in support of the Iraqi National Parliamentary Elections. While escorting high-profile U.N. officials, he is responsible for coordinating with the air weapons teams, ensuring they are aware of any potential threats in the platoon's area of operations. Maintaining a high state of situational awareness, he delivered up-to-date reports to Battery B's command post to ensure higher headquarters had a proper picture of the battlefield. His devotion and dedication to duty are above reproach, and worthy of every Soldier emulating, and make him most worthy of being selected as Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

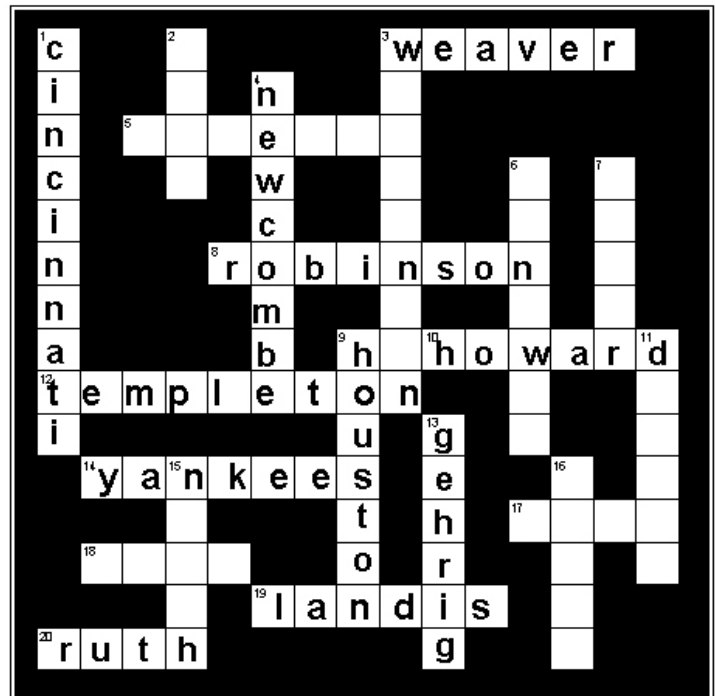


Sergeant Jay Butler, an Orlando, Fl., native with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, exemplified service to the unit while he helped save the lives of Iraqis during a recent traffic accident on Route Elmers. He took control of the situation on the ground and started performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, to ensure a young girl's survival. Sergeant Butler also maintained situational awareness by having other Soldiers conduct security and keep on-lookers and bystanders at bay, away from the accident site. Sergeant Butler was instrumental in the care of a little boy by splinting his fractured ankle and consoling him. Within minutes, Sgt. Butler had performed CPR, splinted an ankle, head-wrapped an injured adult, and helped provide security. He dictated the operating tempo at the site and ensured the survival of the local residents until Iraqi Security Forces arrived to escort them to a higher medical care facility. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and make him a most worthy selection as Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

Safety Thought of the Week: Burn Barrel



- No burn barrel operations in the LSA or maintenance bays.
- Position the burn barrel a minimum of 50 feet from flammable sources, equipment, antennas and structures.
- Maintain a serviceable fire extinguisher and keep it on hand.
- Use a metal screen to prevent burning embers from escaping.
- Do not leave unattended.
- After burning, stir the ashes to ensure the fire is out.
- Stay upwind from the burn barrel. Do not burn in high winds!
- Ensure personnel are wearing goggles and gloves.
- Empty ash from the barrel before each use.



Did last week's Baseball puzzle stump you? Well, it brought the Public Affairs Office to a screeching halt on second base. If you completed the puzzle and earned a homerun, then PAO has a reward for you. The first person to send us the missing answers will receive a gift. Send your answers to marcia.triggs@3id.army.mil. We only have one prize, so be the first to submit.

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Man seriously injured after falling off waterfall

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

ATLANTA - A man fell about 40 feet from a waterfall in Glade Shoals, WSB-TV reported. He is recovering from serious injuries in an Atlanta Hospital.

According to WSB-TV, police are not releasing the man's identity or any details about the fall.

Hall County Fire Chief David Kimbrell told WSB-TV the man was airlifted July 19 to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.

Kimbrell also told WSB-TV rescuers had to cut through gates and locks to access the area where the man had fallen. They used ropes to rescue him.

Chicken nuggets recalled

Associated Press

PERRY, Ga. - Perdue Farms Inc. is recalling thousands of pounds of frozen chicken nugget products officials say could contain foreign materials.

The U.S. Department of

Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced July 19 that the products include 1-pound, 13-ounces of "GREAT VALUE Fully Cooked Chicken Nuggets."

Officials are recalling approximately 91,872 pounds of the nuggets after the Perry-based company discovered small pieces of blue plastic following consumer complaints.

Agriculture authorities have not gotten any reports of injuries.

Each bag bears the establishment number P-33944 as well as a case code of 89008 AD160.

Rat Suspected of starting fire in Yakima

The Associated Press

YAKIMA, Wash. — A rat is suspected of starting a fire at the Veterans of Foreign War building in Yakima.

KAPP-TV reports investigators discovered a rat had chewed through an electrical cord. The rat apparently caught fire and ran to its nest near flammable items.

The fire spread quickly through the building last week, damaging several rooms and war memorabilia.

The fire department says damage could exceed \$1 million.

Suspect arrested after running out of gas

The Wenatchee World

WENATCHEE, Wash. -- Wenatchee police say they arrested a 47-year-old Tacoma man for investigation of first-degree theft after he ran out of gas as he was leaving a store where Native American collectibles were stolen.

Alerted to the thefts by the store owner, police found the man on foot July 14 after his car stalled about 50 feet from its original parking spot.

Sgt. John Kruse says the man is suspected of stealing several Indian collectibles from the Discount Center. Kruse says he was also in possession of several necklaces stolen from the Antique Mall - and is suspected of stealing a beaded Native American ceremonial garment bearing a price tag of \$10,500.

Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Induction & MG Aubrey

"Red" Newman Award Ceremony

Where: North MWR,
COB Speicher

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

You are invited

Paul Wall, Big Boi and DJ IMan

Where: FOB Warrior

When: Aug. 5

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

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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

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