

The North Star

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



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‘Competence is my watchword’

NCOS receive recognition for excellence

Photos and Article by Spc. Cassandra Monroe
135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

There's always time to seek self improvement and Task Force Marne leadership validated that statement by flying Soldiers to Tikrit, Iraq, and recognizing them for taking extra measures to mentor, lead and pursue professional growth.

Eighteen noncommissioned officers received the Maj. Gen. Aubrey "Red" Newman Award, and one NCO was inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club, July 22, Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq. Originally, six Soldiers were scheduled to be inducted into the prestigious NCO club, and 22 were to receive the leadership award, but due to bad weather and redeployments not everyone was able to attend.

The Task Force Marne Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, was in attendance and congratulated the troops on their success and hard work.

"Because of our noncommissioned officer corps, we're still able to continue to do things we need to do to grow our future leaders," said Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews. "We don't have anything to worry about. We just proved that to-



The TF Marne Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo and Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews present the Maj. Gen. Aubrey "Red" Newman Award to Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Gann, a Soldier with Foxtrot Company, 2-7th Infantry, 1st AAB, 31D, during the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club and Maj. Gen. Aubrey "Red" Newman Award Ceremony, July 22, at the COB Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq.

day with these 19 Soldiers."

The awardees were each summoned upon the stage in front of their peers and leaders to receive their medallions and certificates. The Task Force Marne Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo and Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews presented the awards to the Soldiers.

"It feels great, but it's also hard to believe," said Sgt. Sandra Ospina, a military police officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-3

Brigade Troops Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. "I went through a lot to get here; I studied days and nights and to me, it's an honor."

Sergeant Ospina earned a place in the prestigious Sgt. Audie Murphy club, by exemplifying true American spirit through leadership and knowledge.

Sergeant Audie Leon Murphy is America's recognized and decorated. He was also a strong advocate for helping

war veterans deal with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, after dealing with his own bouts with the condition.

For Sergeant Ospina, the motivation to become a member of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club spurred her to spend many days and nights studying doctrines and regulations. Her drive and leadership skills stems from her admiration of her platoon sergeant and first sergeant's leadership tactics.

"My platoon sergeant and my first sergeant are in the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club, and I see them as the great leaders they are," she continued. "They coached me, and mentored me, they helped me to get here."

Although Sgt. Ospina, an Elizabeth, N.J., native, has joined the very small ranks of other dedicated, worthy and committed NCOs, she won't let the status alter her humble attitude. In fact, Sgt. Ospina looks forward to improving her skills as a leader.

"By being in the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club, it will improve my leadership style," she said. "If I do change, I will change for the better. But, everyone has room for improvement, so I'll just keep improving. I just think of the way I would want some-

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one to treat me, so that's how I'll take care of my Soldiers."

Constantly improving leadership skills is also a theme for Sgt. Jason Calloway, a truck driver with Golf Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd ID. and St. Louis, Mo., native. Sergeant Calloway earned the Maj. Gen. Aubrey "Red" Newman award for his commitment to mentoring, coaching and counseling his Soldiers, and was one of the 18 to receive the award.

Major General Newman was an ROTC cadet that primarily served in infantry units, and commanded three different units in between both world wars. He later served on the Army staff and was a part of the very first Army War College class.

"I'm glad that I got recognized for it," he said. "But I'm going to continue to try to push my knowledge onto my Soldiers so that maybe one day, they can be put in for this award too."

Sergeant Calloway hopes that his success in earning this award motivates his Soldiers to surpass the standards and do the best they can.

"I want them to be proficient at everything, not just what they think matters," he said. "If I see any Soldier that needs help, I will help them."

As the ceremony came to a close, one Soldier was made an honorary member of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club, for his constant support and recognition of the non-commissioned officer corps. Major General Cucolo received a medal and certificate, and also received an award on behalf of the inductees.



Sergeant Sandra Ospina, a military police officer with HHC, 2-3 BTB, 2HBCT, 3ID, displays her Sgt. Audie Murphy Club and Maj. Gen. Aubrey "Red" Newman Award medallion after the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club and Maj. Gen. Aubrey "Red" Newman Award Ceremony, July 22, at the North Morale, Welfare and Recreation building, COB Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq.



Sergeant Jason Calloway, a truck driver with Golf Co., 1-41st FA, 1st AAB, 3ID, displays his Sgt. Audie Murphy Club and Maj. Gen. Aubrey "Red" Newman Award medallion after the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club and Maj. Gen. Aubrey "Red" Newman Award Ceremony, July 22, at the North Morale, Welfare and Recreation building, COB Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq.

MG Aubrey "Red" Newman Awardees: 1-3ID awardees: SFC Daniel P. Bergman, SFC Joseph English, SFC Jeremy Gann, SFC Marlon A. Gipson, SFC Reginald Johnson, SFC Duncan McPhail, SFC Tonya Russel, SSG Tyler Crane, SSG Lauritz C. Dent, SSG Casey A. Enos, SSG Shannon B. Garstka, SSG Cynthia McClain, SSG Aaron A. Patrick, SSG Austin R. Phillips, SSG Jason, T. Wilding, SGT Jason A. Calloway, SGT Joseph Kuntz, SGT Joshua Laiko, SGT Stephen M. Thale; **2-3ID awardees:** SFC Rodney R. Chiles, SSG Miguel Cruz; **DSTB, 3ID awardees:** SFC Jason A. MacArthur

SGT Audie Murphy Inductees: 1-1AD awardees: SFC Chestine L. Sanders; **2-3ID awardees:** SGT Sandra Ospina, SGT Matthew M. Soto; **3-2ID awardees:** SFC Alex Martinez, SSG Nathaniel Cummins, SSG Joseph S. Spicer,

Reserve Career Counselor Making Final Rounds Before Returning to Fort Stewart

Master Sergeant Benjamin Taylor, 3rd Infantry Division Reserve Component Career Counselor, is nearing the end of his tour in U.S. Division - North. With one final trip scheduled for next week, the opportunity for Soldiers on Contingency Operating Base Speicher to meet with Master Sgt. Taylor regarding both RC Programs, and for transition assistance, is rapidly drawing to a close. The temporary office on COB Speicher will close permanently at the end of the day on July 23. Very limited assistance will be available following that date. If you haven't had a chance to meet with Master Sgt. Taylor regarding transition counseling and assistance, you have a last chance to take advantage of his knowledge and expertise prior to redeployment. He can be reached at DSN: 318-845-6775, SVOIP 242-1572, and by email at benjamin.taylor@iraq.centcom.mil.

You are invited

Paul Wall, Big Boi and DJ IMan

Where: FOB Warrior
When: Aug. 5

Nathan Lee

Where: COS Marez
When: Aug. 6
Where: FOB Warhorse
When: Aug. 7

University of Maryland University College Europe Celebrates 60 years

Where: Education Center,
COB Speicher
When: Aug. 6, noon - 5:00 p.m.

Ja Rule performs for Servicemembers in Iraq



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

Hip hop artist Ja Rule performs for Servicemembers and civilians deployed to COB Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq, during his two-week long USO/Armed Forces Entertainment sponsored tour in Iraq, July 20.

**By Pfc. Jessica Luhrs,
1BCT, 1st AD PAO**

During his two-week United Service Organizations/Armed Forces Entertainment sponsored tour of Iraq, hip hop star, Ja Rule, performed for hundreds of servicemembers on the stages at Forward Operating Base Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, July 19 and Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Tikrit, July 20.

Before the Warrior show began "Ready First" Commander, Col. Larry Swift and the "Ready First" Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. James P. Daniels, personally thanked the rapper for coming to Iraq to perform by awarding him with a certificate of appreciation.

"We want to thank you for what you're doing it means a lot to our Soldiers," said Col. Swift.

The show kicked off with Ja Rule arriving to the stage standing on the roof of a truck while performing one of

his hit songs.

"I wanted to come here and let ya'll know we love you and respect what you do," Ja Rule said to the cheering crowd.

Dressed in a t-shirt and the Army Combat Uniform pants, he also thanked the Soldiers for taking him in as one of their own.

During the two-hour long concert, he performed songs from his new CD along with his older hits that had servicemembers singing along with their hands held high throughout the night.

Following the concert he took pictures, handed out his new CD and signed autographs for the troops.

"I'm having a great time," he said during his visit to COB Speicher. "It's an experience and I think a lot of artists should take a little time out of their schedule to experience the whole Army, military lifestyle. It's different, it's interesting. I've been having a lot of fun with the troops. I'm enjoying myself



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

The audience gets snapshots of Ja Rule during his performance, July 20, at COB Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq.



Photo by Pfc. Jessica Luhrs, 1st BCT, 1st AD PAO

Ja Rule drives the front row wild by getting close enough to be touched during his performance, July 19, FOB Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq.



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

Hip hop artist Ja Rule signs autographs for Spc. Jennifer Ward, an administrative specialist with 3rd Signal Co., DSTB, 3ID, July 20, at COB Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq, during his two-week long USO/Armed Forces Entertainment sponsored tour in Iraq.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Specialist Kenardria Hilliard, a Columbus, Ga., native with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, was selected over 12 other supply clerks in the battalion to be the Property Book Office's supply clerk, a sergeant's position. She has been an amazing asset since joining the Property Book Office's team. She accurately processed over 1,700 automated property book transactions, tracked over \$2.7 million of ammunition, and supported the 111th Engineer Company's early curtailment by turning in nearly 250 items in just three days. Her accuracy and dedication to supporting the companies have been awe-inspiring. Specialist Hilliard worked tirelessly with the companies to make sure theater provided equipment disposition instructions were properly prepared for unit execution. In short, her efforts have made her critical to the unit's successful management of both supplies and equipment. Specialist Hilliard is a motivated and dedicated "Die Hard" Soldier who is most worthy of being selected as a Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



While supporting the 1st "Ready" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, this Tactical Air Control Party made up of Tech Sgt. Jonathan Herman of Boston, Mass., Senior Airman Adam Harmon, of Wallawalla, Wash., and Senior Airman Stephen Stein, of Baton Rouge, La., was asked by the Joint Air Operations Integration Team to advise Iraqi Police training on the integration of Iraqi Air Force assets. On the first day of training, the Joint Integration Team, the training lead, found themselves unable to travel. Undaunted, the TACP team stepped forward and expertly conducted the training. Without the TACP's abilities the day would have been lost to training. On day two, as the team assisted with incorporating actual aircraft into the training event, the Iraqi Police experienced radio problems that threatened to cancel the training. The TACP's adept troubleshooting skills allowed them to quickly restore communications and keep the training going. When a protest broke out in Kirkuk on day two of the training, the Iraqi Police were able to -- due to the quality instruction and restored communications -- provide real-time support for the ground forces responding to the protest. Their tireless and committed effort to support the advise, train and assist mission led directly to a successful Iraqi-led mission and make this three-Airman team a most worthy selection as a Task Force Marne Heroes of the North.

Iraq's July 17th Revolution and Saddam's rise to power

Cultural Tidbit Special to the North Star

Last week marked the forty second anniversary of the July 17, 1968 revolution, which brought the Ba'ath Party to power until it was deposed in 2003 by the U.S. Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Saddam Hussein was a key player in the successful July 17 joint civil and military coup. In fact a brief historical summary of the July 17 revolution helps explain how Saddam's rise to power within the Ba'ath party would eventually lead to him becoming President of Iraq.

Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr assumed leadership of the Ba'ath party's Regional Leadership in 1964. Saddam, who first joined the Ba'ath party in 1956, united civilian Ba'athists in support of al-Bakr. Believing they finally had the political and military muscle to seize power, Ba'ath party leadership

attempted to overthrow the government in September 1964. After the failed coup attempt, both al-Bakr and Saddam were arrested. In 1966, Saddam escaped to Egypt and al-Bakr became ill in prison and was eventually released.

In 1966, Saddam was elected deputy secretary general of the Ba'ath party and he returned to Iraq to prepare the Ba'ath party for a second coup attempt. After garnering the requisite support from four key Iraqi Army officers and several government officials, Ba'ath party leaders stormed the presidential palace and deposed president Abd as-Salam 'Alif and his cabinet on July 17, 1968. Saddam rode in the first tank to besiege the presidential palace. The reasons given for 'Alif's ouster were "corruption of the regime, Kurdish disturbances in the north, the government's failure to adequately support other Arab countries in the

Six-Day War of 1967, and 'Arif's subservience to Nasser's Egypt."

After the successful July 17 revolution, the new regime established the Revolutionary Command Council. The RCC elected al-Bakr president of the Iraqi Republic. To create a government more sympathetic to the new regime, Ba'ath party members were appointed to cabinet and government posts. In addition, the Army and Air Force were purged of officers thought to be hostile to Ba'ath party rule. As al-Bakr's health deteriorated Saddam assumed more and more responsibility for the daily operations of the government. Saddam celebrated the 11th anniversary of the July 17 revolution by being elected President of the Republic of Iraq on July 17, 1979.

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

REGIONAL HEADLINES

100 candles, 100 bucks

The Star Advisor

HONOLULU, Hawaii -- Two years ago, Bill Perry celebrated his 100th birthday when he was only 98 because he was afraid he wouldn't make it to his big centennial. He held a memorial service spoofing his life -- and to give himself a chance to hear the nice things that people say about you when you die.

But now that he's reached triple digits, Perry thinks turning 100 should be worth more than the usual cake and lei. He wants partygoers to donate \$100 to the new Perry Environmental Fund at the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, where he's been an active church member since the 1960s. His birthday bash starts at 6 p.m. at 2500 Pali Highway, and everyone is welcome to join the potluck.

For entertainment, Perry will star in a comedy he wrote as a sequel to Act 1 of his 2008 program, said party organizer Sue Yamane-Carpenter. Tonight's Act 2 will be "based on serious religious questions that Bill pondered as a youth," the church newsletter said.

At his 2008 party, "They carried him in in a coffin, then he sat up in the coffin and talked to an angel with a broken wing. He had written a dialogue. This guy is a scream!" Yamane-Carpenter said.

Perry, who was born on July 5, 1910, in Soldier, Idaho, said, "The church needs money and is anxious to be on

the green side of the environmental problem. ... A member of this church suggested that we use my 100th-birthday party as an excuse to raise money. I liked the idea, and here is my \$100 check to start the fund.

"I'm anxious to protect the planet so my kids, grandkids and great-grandkids have a chance," said Perry, who has two children by his late wife, Pat.

"A lot of people are impressed when you get to be my age, but all you gotta do is continue to breathe. Hell, I don't have any secret (to longevity). I drink good whiskey; I don't drink cheap whiskey. I never did anything healthy. I planned to start exercising at one time, but I never got around to it. ... At times I wonder, does anybody know what it's all about?"

Molly Rowland, a member since the 1960s and editor of the church newsletter, said, "He has always been there when you need him.

"For a long time he was parking czar, and he took it very seriously. He drew maps, trained his volunteers and painted white lines on rock walls to make sure everyone parked straight. Every Sunday after the sermon, we always have a discussion, and he would always manage to relate everything to the importance of parking correctly. Bill made sure we followed the rules, and it got to be funny.

"He is also proud of his community volunteer work, teaching swimming and helping the National Multiple

Sclerosis Society because his daughter has MS."

Funky vehicles-one man's preferred art form

The Witchta Eagle

GREAT BEND, Kan. — Great Bend resident Rex Rosenberg takes great pleasure in an unusual creative outlet — decorating funky vehicles.

Rosenberg's interest in art cars began in 1997 when he began reading online about trips in an art car. This interest expanded, and in 1998, he bought a VW bug.

"It sat for three years," he said, until he then found a guy who built the frame, changing the vehicle into a three-wheeled, one-passenger purple "Bug Wing."

A friend suggested he take it to an art car show after seeing the Bug Wing in a parade at Lucas.

After that, Rosenberg delved into becoming a car artist and enjoying the lighter side of life after years of working as a psychologist. When his sister's Subaru was totaled in a hailstorm, Rosenberg jumped at the chance to decorate it.

He has no definite ideas for another car, but his ideas have paid off in other ways. The car shows aren't judged, but Rosenberg has won trophies and cash prizes.

"I like to have fun," he said. "I like to make people laugh. I get the biggest kick when some women just break out in laughter."

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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