

# The North Star

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



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## Hawaii unit arrives to advise, assist

By Pfc. Robert England  
2SAAB, 25ID PAO

The flag hung in all its glory, decorated with countless streamers for battles fought and unit citations. As the flag was lowered, two sets of hands reached for it, rolled it up, and secured the streamers tightly against the flagpole. A cloth sheath quickly covered it and the flag was raised back to its upright position.

A second flag was lowered, the sheath was removed, and the unfurled flag was saluted as it was raised to an upright position.

Amidst a time-honored ceremony, the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, transferred authority of the Diyala province to the 2nd Stryker Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

“We feel very satisfied in many of the things we’ve been able to do this year,” said Col. David E. Funk, the 3SBCT, 2nd ID, commander, as he delved into the working relationships he and his command group fostered with their Iraqi counterparts, the progressive economic development



Photo by Pfc. Robert England, 2SAAB, 25ID PAO

(Left) The 2SAAB, 25th ID Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. William Hain, and the 2SAAB, 25th ID Commander, Col. Malcolm B. Frost, unfurl the bridage colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony, July 27, FOB Warhorse, Iraq.

in the province and the training he and his Soldiers provided Iraqi Security Forces.

Colonel Malcolm B. Frost, the 2SBCT, 25th ID, commander, acknowledged the challenges the brigade anticipates during the upcoming year, but he’s optimistic about his Warriors’ ability to overcome those challenges.

“As you know, we are a stryker brigade combat team, but we’re also an advise and assist brigade and we have trained toward that

mindset so we can assist, advise, train and equip the Iraqi Security Forces and then support our Provincial Reconstruction Team, our State Department, the United Nations and other non-governmental organizations as they take the lead in providing the stability for the government of Iraq through elements such as governance, economics, infrastructure, essential services, health and education,” he said.

Soldiers from the 3SBCT, 2nd ID “Arrowhead” bri-

gade began arriving in Iraq in August 2009, relieving the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, out of Hawaii, of their command in the Diyala province.

“My recommendation for the incoming brigade is to be flexible, be adaptive, be agile, and if whatever you’re doing isn’t working, change it,” Col. Funk said. “Don’t be afraid to try new and different things, and don’t be afraid to adjust on the fly if you need to, in order to make new things happen.”

# 'Golden Lions' deliver supplies, build better Iraq

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

The Kirkuk Combined Security Forces, also known as the "Golden Lions," made up of Iraqi Army, Police, Peshmerga and "Battle Boar" Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Ga., along with the famous Kirkuk lion mascot "Kirkuki," made a visit to a school in Chemen, near Kirkuk, Iraq, July 24.

The purpose of the visit was to deliver school supplies and stuffed animals, donated by U.S. citizens as a part of Operation School Supplies, to more than 40 Iraqi children.

"We want to thank all of you for what you brought to our children it means so much to them," said Sukar Arif Abus, the school's principal, to the "Golden Lions."

According to Sgt. Mohammed Socat Azzep Kamil, the "Golden Lions" senior platoon sergeant,



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

**Soldiers of the Combined Security Forces and children of Chemen pose after a humanitarian-aid drop delivering school supplies to the children of Chemen, near Kirkuk, Iraq, July 24.**

doing humanitarian-aid drops helps the children and also builds a better country.

The first focus for any country is the child, if a child is not taken care of the country's future will not be good, he explained.

"Which is why we are

very honored to be helping the children because it makes our future better," said Sgt. Mohammed.

He continued in saying the progress the "Golden Lions" are making in the villages can already be seen.

The children were

dancing and clapping with "Kirkuki" and talking to the "Golden Lions" during the entire mission.

"We will be doing missions like this one much more often," said Sgt. Mohammed. "It makes me and my soldiers happy to see the children smiling."

## 3ID MP trains Iraqi Police on 'mans' best friend tactics

**By Pfc. Robert England  
2SAAB, 25ID PAO**

Sergeant First Class Rudder, a Labrador retriever trained as a specialized search dog, and Staff Sgt. Rochan Turner have been a dynamic duo for four-and-a-half years.

Staff Sergeant Turner, a Houston, Texas, native, is the kennel master attached to the Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, 3rd Infantry Division, in Iraq. He manages K9 teams at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, FOB Edge

and Contingency Operating Base Cobra, ensuring each team has the tools and training necessary to accomplish their missions. He also acts as the advisor to the 2nd Stryker Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division Provost Marshal's Office in utilizing K9 teams.

Warriors from the 2SAAB, 25th ID, assisted dog handlers and trainers conducting coalition training with Iraqi Police K9 teams, July 20, on the

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Photo by Pfc. Robert England, 2SAAB, 25ID PAO

**An Iraqi Police officer pauses for a break with his pup during a block of instruction at the Faulkenberg Theater at FOB Warhorse. Soldiers from the 2SAAB, 25th ID, conducted military working dog training with Iraqi Police, July 20, at FOB Warhorse, Diyala province.**

latest U.S. Army Military Police tactics based around working dogs. This training covered basic commands and described what changes in a dog's behavior may occur, and what those changes may indicate.

After the training, Lt. Col. John Shattuck, the Diyala provincial police team chief from the Stability Transition Team, 2SAAB, 25th ID, and Capt. Maurice McKinney, the 2SAAB Provost Marshal, discussed ways the brigade could support IP forces and improve their overall readiness to assume control of all missions following the American transition to contingency operations within the region.

"We talked about near-future goals and long-term projects the brigade could assist the IPs with," said Capt. McKinney. "Capt. Moufaq, the canine manager for the Diyala Provincial Police Headquarters, mentioned needing a canine training area with obstacles, and the construction of that kind of training pen is something we would assist with."

Laying this foundation and strengthening familiarization in core training is vital in realizing the potential of the working dog program, as IPs have only recently embraced the idea of using canines for counter-insurgency purposes.

"Iraqi Police forces have only been using K9 teams for a few years, so it's important we train them right," said Staff Sgt. Turner.

Before they have the opportunity to assist in teaching IP K9 teams, U.S. Army canines must complete "basic training" at Lackland Air Force Base in



Photo by Pfc. Robert England, 2SAAB, 25ID PAO

**Sergeant First Class Rudder, a Labrador retriever, can hardly contain his excitement as his handler, Staff Sgt. Rochan Turner, the kennel master for HHOC, 3ID, tosses a football in the air, indicating playtime. Soldiers from the 2SAAB, 25ID, conducted military working dog training with Iraqi Police, July 20, at FOB Warhorse in the Diyala province.**

San Antonio, Texas, introducing them to odors and basic commands. Handlers learn how to observe and properly react to changes in the dog's behavior as well as techniques for instilling obedience.

Once training is completed, K9 teams receive specific orders, sending them to units in theater to support that unit's mission. A typical deployment for a K9 team ranges from six to 12 months.

"We train for war every day," said the Texas native, Staff Sgt. Turner. "We can get the call at any time and

then move out with those orders."

In order to effectively augment each unit during a deployment, certain dogs have extended skill sets. Specialized search dogs can travel up to 150 meters off the leash. Handlers use voice commands and hand and arms signals to communicate with the dogs. Patrol explosive dogs specialize in sniffing out a variety of materials used in the construction of explosive devices.

When K9 teams are not deployed, they are training. There are countless certi-

fications that handlers and their dogs can obtain, in addition to the mandatory annual certifications.

The canines are hydrated and fed food rich in protein, in order to maintain the energy and acute awareness necessary to effectively carry out their missions. Handlers often stockpile food prior to deployments and can order more as their supplies dwindle.

Staff Sergeant Turner said a portion of the Iraqi population doesn't like dogs. However, all members of the Iraqi Police force that are trained to work with canines, have a deep appreciation for their animals. U.S. Army dog handlers often stress the importance of developing a strong bond with the dogs.

"We teach the IPs that it's important to love the dog, to take care of it. The biggest reward for the dog is love," Staff Sgt. Turner said. "Everything the dog does, is done to please the handler."

All work and no play makes for anxious, exhausted hounds. Between missions and training exercises, handlers understand the importance of letting their dogs off the leash for some quality playtime.

"We give them breaks," said Staff Sgt. Turner. "Before we train, we let them run around and play and just be dogs."

Staff Sergeant Turner said the most rewarding part of his job is the constant companionship found in his loyal buddy, Sgt. 1st Class Rudder, a feeling shared by many dog handlers.

"He's a good boy, a hard worker and he doesn't talk back," Staff Sgt. Turner said with a hearty chuckle. "I love working with him."

**Task Force Marne Heroes of the North**



Specialist Bradley Whiting, a Jordan, Minn., native with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, is a member of the security section and exceeded his prescribed duties while working as both a gunner and driver for the Base Defense Reaction Force. Always mission-focused, he maintained his vehicle at 100 percent readiness throughout the deployment, and has executed over 240 combat presence patrols around the outer perimeter of Contingency Operating Site Marez/Diamondback. His dedication to mission accomplishment has greatly contributed to the successful execution of a multitude of BDRF missions, to include: confirmation of indirect fire points of impact, apprehension of personnel at entry control points, escort of personnel in and around the base, and unmanned aerial vehicle recovery. As a junior leader, he served as the platoon's communications subject matter expert, ensuring all communications equipment was mission ready for the BDRF's 24/7 mission. For his devotion and commitment to the Spartan Brigade, Spc. Whiting is most deserving of selection as Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Specialist Brent Weiss, a Eugene, Ore., native with Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 73rd U.S. Cavalry, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, is the primary shooter for his sniper team and also serves as the driver for the Red 5 vehicle. He constantly has his vehicle fully mission capable to ensure it is ready for any possible mission. Specialist Weiss is a Level 3 Combatives instructor and the primary instructor for his troop. He often spends his personal time teaching small group combatives classes. He encourages his peers and noncommissioned officers to develop an exercise program to help them overcome the heat and better adjust to the Iraqi environment. When not out on mission, you will often find Spc. Weiss assisting other Soldiers with the exercises he developed. He has also coached and mentored other Soldiers and four IA Commandos on how to properly employ the M24 and M107 Sniper Weapon System, significantly increasing his and his partnered units' effectiveness. His total dedication to his units' mission is what makes him an excellent choice for Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

**Safety thought of the week: Safety Doctrine 'Not Fighting Words'**

- The Army Accident Investigator determines the root causes of an accident.
- The goal is to prevent the next "like" accident.
- The three categories for accident investigation are: Human Factors, Material Factors ,and Environmental Factors.
- Human Factor analysis is the study of how Soldiers and their individual characteristics contribute to an accident.
- Safety Doctrine defines five system inadequacies when examining human error:

- Support Failure**
- Standards Failure**
- Training Failure**
- Leader Failure**
- Individual Failure**



•Leader failure asks just one question, "Did the leader enforce standards?" If the answer is no then there was an inadequacy in the leadership system - Not "Fighting Words" but a root cause that can be addressed by the commander to prevent the next accident.

**Paul Wall, Big Boi and DJ**

**IMan**

Where: FOB Warrior  
When: Aug. 5

**Nathan Lee**

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

**You are invited**

**University of Maryland  
University College Europe**

**Celebrates 60 years**

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

**Candlebox**

Where: COB Speicher  
When: Aug. 12

**Black Violin**

Where: COS Marez  
When: Aug. 15

**21ST CSH Opens**

Where: 25 CBT CO. Street  
When: Aug. 1, 7 a.m.

# REGIONAL HEADLINES

## Police shut down naked bike ride on Capitol Hill

Komonews.com

**SEATTLE, Wash.** -- Several naked bicyclists were stopped by police and told to cover up, the night of July 23, on Capitol Hill during a World Naked Bike Ride event. Officers told the cyclists they were in violation of indecent exposure laws. The riders were ordered to get dressed or risk prosecution, according to bike ride organizers.

But the bicyclists themselves say they were merely exercising their First Amendment rights and were carrying out Seattle's longstanding naked cycling tradition.

Seattle is one of about 80 cities that joined in this year's World Naked Bike Ride, which is meant to demonstrate the vulnerability of cyclists on the road, as well as celebrate cycling and the human body, organizers say.

The riders, which included both men and women, started at Denny Park that night, then rode through Belltown, downtown Seattle, Pioneer Square and the Westlake area before heading to the Capitol Hill Block Party.

Officers did not interfere with the naked cyclists until they reached Capitol Hill.

The riders were told later that there was no record of any citizen complaint leading to the police action and was most likely the result of an officer who was at Dick's Restaurant on Broadway observing the cyclists, said Daniel

Johnson, one of the ride organizers.

"This is the first time I'm aware of where SPD has stopped naked cyclists in Seattle without evidence of even one citizen complaint," Johnson said.

He said officers told female bicyclists it is illegal to expose their nipples in public unless they are breastfeeding.

The bicyclists met later with Seattle Police Sgt. Jay Shin, who explained that all naked cycling events are illegal, and that riders are taking a gamble about getting arrested, Johnson said.

## Forecaster: nearly 1,000 lightning strikes in 15 minutes.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

**ATLANTA, Ga.** -- Lightning struck more than twice on the afternoon of July 26 -- 1,000 times in a 15 minute period, and it was the most metro-Atlanta has seen all summer, experts said.

According to Channel 2 Action News chief-meteorologist Glenn Burns, Atlanta had more than 1,000 lightning strikes in a 15 minute period around 5:30 p.m., Monday, July 26. For the rest of the evening, lightning averaged between 800-900 strikes every 15 minutes.

"This happens every July, but this type of lightning is very, very powerful and very dangerous," Burns said. "Heat and humidity drive these storms up to 50,000 feet into the atmosphere and the hail and ice bump

into each other creating a lot of static electricity."

Burns said Monday's lightning was 1,000 times more powerful than typical lightning.

"There are about one million volts in negative lightning, there are over one billion in positive lightning," he said.

"Positive lightning comes from the top of the cloud and hits the ground," Burns explained, "while negative lightning works within the cloud, or transfers cloud-to-cloud."

Burns also said Monday's powerful lightning causes more fires because it can travel "tremendous distances."

Nate Mayes, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service said there is a lot of cautionary information people should know about lightning.

"Most people are struck by lightning before the storm hits," Mayes said. "The lightning can be at the front of the storm and it doesn't seem dangerous yet."

Mayes listed precautionary measures such as staying indoors or inside vehicles during a thunderstorm and avoiding open fields and bodies of water. He warned that lightning can travel through metal pipes and phone lines, so it is best to not take showers or baths during a thunderstorm, or to talk on a land line phone.

"The best thing you can do is listen," Mayes said. "Lightning causes thunder. When you see lightning, start counting. Every five seconds that pass until you hear thunder is a mile in [distance]."

### 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

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