

The North Star

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



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USF-I commander, CSM visits 'Ready' Soldiers

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

The U. S. Forces - Iraq Commanding General, Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, and the USF-I Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson, met with the senior leadership of Forward Operating Base Warrior, July 30, and also recognized deserving Soldiers.

The visit began with a briefing from Task Force Marne Deputy Commanding General Maneuver, Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Donahue, II; Col. Larry Swift, commander of 1st Brigade Combat Team, "Ready First," 1st Armored Division; Command Sgt. Maj. James Daniels, the Ready First command sergeant major; as well as members of the Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team.

During the briefing, the senior leaders discussed the upcoming change in mission and the progress that has been made in the surrounding area.

The highlight of the progress was the Kirkuk Combined Security Forces, a combination of U.S. Soldiers, Peshmerga, Iraqi Army and police.

"We have had great success with the CSF," said Col.

Swift. "Their training has brought these soldiers to the level of our own Soldiers. We expect great things from this security force."

Following the briefing, 10 Soldiers were brought into the room to be recognized by the USF-I command team.

"All of you are doing a great job, and I am very proud of each of you," Gen. Odierno said to the Soldiers after giving them his personal coin.

Before the USF-I command team visit ended, they sat down for dinner with Brig. Gen. Sameer Abdul Kareem Jassin, commander of the 12th Division Iraqi Army.

During the dinner, Brig. Gen. Sameer talked about his view on security.

"Security in the area is very good," Gen. Odierno said. "The people of Kirkuk trust us, because we have been trained very well."

General Odierno said he was very impressed with his visit and the progress being made in Kirkuk.

The Ready First Combat Team is doing a great job in Kirkuk. The brigade is building strong relationships with the Iraqi Security Forces and the PRT, and this has attributed to the success in the area, said Gen. Odierno.



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

The U. S. Forces - Iraq Commanding General, Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, awards Sgt. Joshua Casselman, an NCO with 6/1 Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 1st AD, with his personal coin during his visit to FOB Warrior, July 30. Command Sergeant Major James Daniels, 1st BCT, 1st AD, command sergeant major, congratulates Soldiers after they receive their coin.

Raider wins 3rd ID career Counselor of the Year

By Spc. Michael Adams
TF Marne PAO

Staff Sergeant Manuel Cabrera, a career counselor with 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, won the 3rd ID career counselor of the year board, Aug. 4, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

"It's a relief," he said. "It's something I've been working on for awhile. I want to represent the division. I want to show my hard work in this type of environment. I'm definitely proud today."

Staff Sergeant Cabrera, of Brooklyn, N.Y., re-enlisted 91 Soldiers in his unit. The battalion's goal was to re-enlist 49 Soldiers. He met his unit's end strength by 186 percent.

Even though Staff Sgt. Cabrera is honored to have won this award, the job he does regularly is rewarding for him.

"A career counselor is being able to take care of the Soldier in every way," he said. "It means following that Soldier to when he gets into the unit. It's being involved, it's something that I like doing. We're caring for the Soldiers. It means a lot to do this on a daily basis and have that interaction with Soldiers and know that Soldiers always rely on me."

Four career counselors competed on the board. They represented 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 3rd



Photo by Spc. Michael Adams, TF Marne PAO

Staff Sergeant Manuel Cabrera, a career counselor with the 1/41st FA, 1st BCT, 3rd ID, reports to the 3rd ID Career Counselor of the Month Board, August 4, at COB Speicher.

"A career counselor is being able to take care of the Soldier in every way. ... It means a lot to do this on a daily basis and have that interaction with Soldiers and know that Soldiers always rely on me."

-Staff Sergeant Manuel Cabrera, career counselor, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

Infantry Division.

In order to compete, each Soldier had to be in good mental and physical standing, be a staff sergeant or sergeant first class, meet their unit's retention goal, and be recommended by the brigade's senior career counselor.

Command Sergeant Major Jesse Andrews, 3rd Infantry Division command sergeant major, presided over the board. He addressed all of the participants and commented on their importance.

"You all are winners because you're here," he said. "We have some of the top notch career counselors that the Army has to offer right here in 3rd ID. You, Soldiers, are the crème of the crop that allows us to maintain the Army's strength."

For the competing Soldiers, it entailed more than

just studying. Some of the troops came from central and south Iraq taking numerous flights, traveling two or three days to compete for the title of best career counselor for the 3rd Infantry Division.

"That speaks volumes of their dedication to want to compete on this board and do well," said Sgt. Maj. Luis Rivera, command career counselor for the 3rd Infantry Division and Task Force Marne, who also sat on the board.

And out of this elite group of career counselors, Staff Sgt. Cabrera was the one Soldier who impressed the board more than any other.

"Staff Sergeant Cabrera did awesome," said Sgt. Maj. Rivera, of Comerio, Puerto Rico. "He was able to articulate the answers to the questions, he was very

confident and knowledgeable of not just retention, but current events and Army programs."

Sergeant Major Rivera added his thoughts on why being a career counselor is so important.

"You are the honest broker for the command in taking care of the Soldiers and their Families," he said. "You are the person people come to for answers on their career options. The career counselor is one of the most important jobs in the Army, we help Soldiers make the most difficult decisions in their careers."

It is that dedication that helped Staff Sgt. Cabrera obtain this award.

Staff Sergeant Cabrera will represent 3rd ID at the Forces Command Career Counselor Board at Fort McPherson, Ga., in September.

Father's footsteps lead son to Iraq

By Capt. Heather Guck
TF Marne PAO

"It's exciting when you have a son or daughter who wants to follow in your footsteps," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gregg Waterman, of his newly promoted son Spc. Tim Waterman.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Waterman, 40, is serving under Task Force Marne as the 3rd Infantry Division mobility officer.

He currently resides in Midway, Ga., and has served in the Army for 18 years. Shortly after being stationed in Germany, CW3 Waterman decided that the Army was the way of life for him.

Specialist Waterman, 23, a crew chief with 301st Attack Helicopter Battalion, Company C, out of Fort Riley, Kan., has almost mirrored his father's career.

They went to the same basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., - even stayed in the same barracks - and both attended advanced individual training at Fort Eustis, Va. Now, they are serving on Contingency Operating Base Speicher together.

At the age of 9, Spc. Waterman's love for the Army sprouted when his father, who he refers to as "his idol," was assigned to Germany. This was the beginning of an inseparable bond that ultimately resulted in his decision to join the Army.



Courtesy Photo

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gregg Waterman (right) stands with his son, Spc. Tim Waterman, at his promotion ceremony on COB Speicher, Aug. 1.

This deployment has only strengthened the Watermans' existing bond as memories and experiences are added on a daily basis.

Since CW3 Waterman is stationed at Ft. Stewart and Spc. Waterman is at Ft. Riley, they try to find time to see one another while together in Iraq. "There isn't one day that goes by ... if I have an opportunity to spend time with my father, that doesn't remind me of my mom or brother," said an appreciative Spc. Waterman.

When CW3 Waterman knew for certain that his son was going to join him in Iraq, his excitement increased as each day grew closer to his arrival. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Waterman said with a laugh, "I love seeing the reactions on people's face when they're

like ... two Watermans?"

When the Watermans were asked about the advantages of being deployed together, CW3 Waterman explained, "For my wife, Tammy ... to know that her son is at a location with the father ... she feels a lot more comfortable that someone is looking out for him, for his well-being."

"For me, it's the opportunity to talk to somebody when needed," Spc. Waterman replied.

That confidant was needed shortly after Spc. Waterman arrived in theater. While temporarily stationed at Camp Taji, he experienced a mortar attack. He was appreciative of the opportunity to share his experiences and thoughts with a father who could relate to his situation.

"Kids that grow up in a military family don't always understand what their parents do," CW3 Waterman said. "I don't have to answer that question anymore ... I think he understands. He understands what dad does and has been trying to tell him for the last 17 years."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Waterman is so thankful that he and his son will redeploy and forever have their shared experiences and understandings that came along with being deployed.

"I'm very proud of Tim, and there's something to be said about [sons and daughters who] take after their parents' occupation. He's doing very well and I'm proud of him."

You are invited

Nathan Lee

Where: FOB Marez
When: Aug. 7

Olympic Heroes Tour

Where: FOB Cobra,
FOB Warhorse
When: Aug. 10
Where: FOB Warrior,
COB Speicher
When: Aug. 11

Candlebox

Where: COB Speicher
When: Aug. 12

Black Violin

Where: FOB Warhorse
When: Aug. 15

Women's Equality Day

Where: Task Force Marne
Headquarters Foyer
When: Aug. 27, 11:30 a.m.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Where: COB Speicher North
Dining Facility
When: Sept. 17, 11:30 a.m.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Sergeant Kenneth Mylenek, from Detroit, Mich., is with 2nd Battalion, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. He has been serving as the adjutant and personnel officer, with the responsibility to deploy the entire 500-plus Soldier squadron. He has served in this position, normally held by a captain, for two months and has never failed to achieve superb results. He has flawlessly operated a squadron personnel shop with only two of the eight Soldiers normally assigned. His actions have been an inspiration for the rest of his unit and mark him as an exemplary and effective leader. His outstanding duty performance and never quit attitude in ensuring his unit achieves mission success make him a most worthy selection for today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Billy Northcutt, of Charlottesville, Va., is Task Force Marne's biometric watch list manager and serves as the subject matter expert for all biometrics-related issues. Northcutt provides biometric input to the task force's targeting and force protection efforts. He is an integral part of connecting theater collections, exploitation and analytic efforts for U.S. Division - North, Department of Defense and national biometric-enabled intelligence communities. Northcutt's efforts are crucial to the task force's ability to identify and neutralize counterintelligence and force protection threats, both on and off bases across northern Iraq, ensuring the safety of all TF Marne civilians and servicemembers. In addition to his normal duties, Northcutt undertook the herculean effort of standardizing more than 5,200 biometric records, tripling the number of records on the task force's watch list. Northcutt's dedication to mission and commitment to excellence make him a most worthy selection for this week's Task Force Marne's Service Provider of the Week.

Safety Thought of the Week: Close the "Information Loop"

- *All leaders have the responsibility to provide their Soldiers a work and living environment that is free of hazards to life, health and safety. This is especially challenging when entering a new "Battle Space". When that goal cannot be met then Hazard Management Practices must be implemented. This requires the close coordination between Garrison/Installation Mayor Cells, Unit Commanders, and the Facility Maintenance/ Department of Public Works.*
- *Leaders must be aware of and inform their Soldiers of existing hazards in the work area and living areas.*
- *Check for existing hazard inventory logs and outstanding work orders.*
- *Identify all TF-SAFE unmitigated electrical 'flashes' to exposed Soldiers.*
- *Communication and partnership between all parties is the key to sound hazard management.*



Remember: Safety is leadership in action!

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Bound woman types help message with toes

Atlanta Journal Constitution

ATLANTA- A southeast Atlanta woman tied to her bed during a harrowing overnight home invasion was freed by police after she used her toes to type a computer message to her boyfriend.

The armed robbery happened around midnight in the 700 block of Glenwood Avenue, according to Atlanta police dispatchers.

Just before 5:30 a.m. Aug. 4, the victim's boyfriend called 911 to report that 39-year-old Amy Windom had just contacted him and had been tied to her bed since midnight.

Atlanta police Capt. Van Hobbs told the AJC that when officers arrived, they found the victim tied to her bed. The victim told police that the intruder, who was wearing a ski mask, "took her around the house and went through her belongings, then bound her to the bed," Hobbs said. "Her laptop was on her bed with her and she was able to use her toes to type a message to her boyfriend and let him know what had happened."

Hobbs said the intruder stole the victim's white 2009 Acura. Susan Walens, who lives around the corner, told the AJC that the neighborhood has been plagued by more than a half-dozen break-ins in recent months.

"Twenty-six years I've lived here,

in the same house, same corner, and never, never have I seen it like this," Walens said. "And I moved in in '84, when it was a ghetto."

"It's getting worse, with the economy the way it is," Walens said. "After I got broken into, and every time I see something, I just want to sit in a rocking chair on my front porch with a shotgun. Once they hear that click, they'll turn around."

Staff photographer John Spink contributed to this article.

Boy, 10, honored for saving baby brother's life

Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON - When Julio Jimenez took a class about calling 911, the 8-year-old never thought he would actually have to use it.

He was wrong.

On the evening of April 16, 2009, Julio's infant brother, Fernando, began choking on a piece of a Styrofoam plate at their Cypress home. His mother knew only broken English, and they had to act fast.

"I was really nervous when I called 911," Julio said. "And when I saw him getting worse, I got more scared."

The events that followed led to Julio, who's now 10, and three other children earning recognition for their heroics at an event Tuesday at the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston. The honors came from the organization 911 for

Kids National & International.

Despite his fear on that April day, Julio stayed composed on the phone until paramedics arrived and helped save his brother's life, said Tammy Parker, the Cypress Creek Communication Center supervisor.

"Julio was brave, very calm and able to provide us with appropriate and needed information," Parker said. "Better than many adults."

Julio kept Fernando still and monitored for any signs of suffocation while waiting for the paramedics.

"When they came they told me to relax, and that they had everything under control," Julio said. "I didn't want to leave him alone, even for a second. I was glad they had him, and I didn't have to worry no more."

Fernando was taken to a hospital and fully recovered.

"He was able to get on the phone and tell us exactly what was going on," said Cecelia Moll, the operator at Cypress Creek EMS who took the call. "He was a very important part of saving his brother's life that day."

Correction

In the July 30 issue of the North Star there was an error in the story, "U.S. ground, air forces join IA for live fire exercise." The unit that provided the Kiowa Warriors helicopters was 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade.

THE

North Star

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