

The North Star

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



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‘Enhanced’ combat aviation brigade makes history

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

“When we first arrived here, there were four combat aviation brigades in Iraq, and now we have gone down to one,” said the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Commander Col. Frank Muth, “The numbers of total aircraft in theater have gone down significantly, but for a CAB, we are double the size of the normal CAB.”

The 1st CAB, based out of Fort Riley, Kan., is an “enhanced” CAB. It is made up of six battalions. In addition to the four battalions organic to the 1st CAB, there are two additional units -- the 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, and the 2nd Battalion, 285th General Support Aviation Regiment -- both are part of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, out of Ansbach, Germany.

The “enhanced” CAB has been operating in U.S. Division – North, Contingency Operating Base Speicher, since April. The Soldiers replaced 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, based out of Hawaii. The 1st CAB has four primary missions, none of which will cease once the forces in Iraq transition to Operation New Dawn, Sept.

1, 2010.

“Our first mission is freedom of maneuver for Soldiers, which means being able to move Soldiers with our lift assets, so they don’t have to drive,” said Col. Muth.

The second is disrupting counter indirect fire by using reconnaissance and security assets, Col. Muth added. The third is route clearance, where the brigade provides clearance capabilities with its reconnaissance aircraft to identify any threats along the road, and the fourth mission is to provide convoy security for those Soldiers on the ground, Col. Muth concluded.

The 1st CAB has units throughout Iraq and spans its support throughout the entire country, not just USDN, which makes this mission one that will go down in history.

“We are doing a mission that’s never been done before,” said Col. Muth. “This is historic to have both the size of an aviation brigade and the scope of responsibility be doubled, covering the whole country of Iraq, three divisions, United States Forces-Iraq headquarters



Photo by Spc. Cassandra Monroe, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
A crew performs maintenance on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, belonging to 1st CAB, 1st ID, at COB Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, Aug. 9.

and the Embassy. It hasn’t been written in the books or a doctrine on how to command and control the size of an entire country with one brigade headquarters.”

“We wouldn’t be an enhanced CAB without 12th CAB’s support,” said Capt. Seth Gulsby, the brigade

plans officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st CAB, 1st ID. “It’s a team effort all across theater. Those battalions plus-up our formation.”

To some CAB Soldiers, this deployment will mark a moment in history where their duties played a critical

Soldier plays A.C.E., saves peer's life

By Sgt. Johnathon Jobson
TF Marne PAO

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S. Army. The Army's primary suicide prevention program is known as A.C.E. It stands for ask, care, escort. The program encourages Soldiers to be vigilant against signs that another Soldier may be contemplating suicide.

"The 'Ask' portion encourages Soldiers to ask the tough question, 'are you thinking about killing yourself?' if they notice a Soldier who is showing signs of possible suicidal thoughts," explained Chaplain (Maj.) Terry Romine, a Family Life chaplain for the Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division. "Some people are scared to ask that question for two reasons.

"One, they are afraid of giving the person the idea of suicide. If you are seeing the signs, they have already thought of it. Research shows that when we ask, it shows that we care enough, and that by itself is enough to keep someone alive very frequently. The other reason is that they are afraid they will get the answer 'yes.' They don't know what they will do if they get that answer."

By noticing differences in actions and listening to what another Soldier was saying, Spc. Amie McClintic, an information systems specialist with 3rd Signal Company, DSTB, 3rd ID, was able to recognize the signs and help prevent that Soldier from possibly committing suicide.

"There was a Soldier who was making comments about how today was the day he was going to kill



himself," Spc. McClintic explained. "The Soldier was always joking around, even about serious issues. At first, I just took it as he was making jokes again.

"When he made the comment again later, I let him know that it was not a funny topic, and he shouldn't be joking about it. He responded, 'how do you know I am joking?' At that point, I was not sure if he was still joking or being serious."

Care is the second part of the A.C.E. process and explains what Soldiers should do if they find that someone is thinking about committing suicide.

"Care gives you the 'what to do' if they say yes," Chaplain Romine said. "We can reduce the fear of asking that question if we know what care means.

"Care means you are not going to leave them alone, and you are probably going to call or send for more help. You are going to stay with them and listen. Even if they are giving you their reason to die, it is really important to listen to that, because in their reasons to die, they will also give you their reasons to live. For example, they may say, 'my daughter would be better off if I were dead,' but having a daughter is a better reason to live.

"Care also involves removing any means they may have to commit suicide. Without using force, you may want to take their weapon, any medications they may have if they had planned to use them to commit suicide, and things of that nature," he added.

Specialist McClintic cared enough for her fellow Soldier to not only continue to get him to communicate, but to open up herself about suicides that had happened in her life.

"Later, I noticed that the Soldier was visibly upset as if something was wrong and I asked him if he wanted to talk about it," she said. "He told me that talking does not help. I then reminded him that if he needed help, there are people that he can talk to, and that I did not think any differently about him because suicide is a subject that is very real in my Family and in my life."

Suicide is a familiar topic for Spc. McClintic, as she has recently had to cope with the effects.

"I have had two people who were very close to me attempt suicide in the past year," Spc. McClintic said. "One was successful, and the other ended up in the intensive care unit but recovered. I know how much that has impacted my

Family and me, and I did not want him or his Family to go through that."

Getting a person who's contemplating suicide to get help on his or her own is not always the easiest task; sometimes it has to be done for them. This is where the escort portion of A.C.E. comes in to play.

"You do not want to send, but take the Soldier to see a behavioral health specialist," Chaplain Romine said. "This could mean taking him or her to a combat stress clinic or the emergency room if the clinic is closed.

"A common question at this point is, 'what if they refuse?' If that happens, you need to stay with them and send for help." If you have to intervene at that point and call the MPs or an ambulance, he added, you have to care enough to go against their wishes to get them help.

"I initially informed the mental health specialist for our company," Spc. McClintic said. "When the Soldier was unwilling to talk to her, I informed our first sergeant, because this was not an issue where we could wait to see if the Soldier would seek help on his own."

The Soldier was taken to medical authorities for further evaluation and then released back to duty.

"I am just glad that he is still here," Spc. McClintic said. "We don't know what the outcome would have been, but that is what we are here for. We are supposed to watch out for our battle buddies and have their back in every situation, even if it may put you in an unfavorable position with them."

Pornography invokes severe punishment

By Capt. Lance Clark,
Chief of Military Justice, TF Marne

Don't allow a few clicks of a computer mouse to destroy your career and negatively affect the rest of your life. Child pornography is illegal, even while deployed outside of the continental United States and even on your personal computer.

Under the Unified Code Military Justice, the prohibitions on possession and distribution of child pornography apply to all Soldiers and civilians accompanying the force. Soldiers possessing child pornography can be prosecuted by court-martial. The maximum punishment for possessing just a few images of child pornography is 10 years confinement, and for Soldiers, reduction to private, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a dishonorable discharge. The punishment for distributing child pornography over the Internet is even higher.

In addition to receiving a federal conviction, a person convicted of possessing child pornography could be required under state law to register as a sex offender. Registered sex offend-

The maximum punishment for possessing just a few images of child pornography is 10 years confinement, and for Soldiers, reduction to private, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a dishonorable discharge.

ers are often limited as to where they can reside, prohibited from coming within close proximity to schools, and are sometimes required to go door-to-door to notify neighbors that they are registered sex offenders.

During Task Force Marne's current deployment, three Soldiers serving in United States Division-North have been prosecuted for possession of child pornography.

In March of this year, a military judge sentenced a Soldier who possessed 114 images and videos of child pornography on his laptop computer to seven months of confinement, reduction to E-1, and a Bad Conduct Discharge. In April, another Soldier who had 30 images and five video files of child pornography on his laptop computer and an external hard-drive

received four months of confinement, reduction to private, and a Bad Conduct Discharge. Also, in July a Soldier was convicted at a General Court Martial of possession of 89 images of child pornography on an external hard drive. The military judge sentenced him to 13 months of confinement, reduction to private and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Prior to being caught with child pornography, several of these Soldiers were highly regarded by their peers and their chain of command. Rather than redeploy honorably with their units, these Soldiers were sent to military confinement facilities. Don't be seduced by the ease with which illegal material can be downloaded over the Internet. Possession of child pornography is a serious crime.

Continued from AVIATION, Page 1



Photo by Spc. Cassandra Monroe, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Sergeant Ben Lind, a crew chief with Co. C., 3/1st Avn., 1st CAB, 1ID, sprays black paint on the tail rotor of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to prevent erosion from sand, at COB Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, Aug. 9.

role in defining the American footprint in Iraq.

"It's good to be part of the [responsible drawdown of forces] in Iraq," said Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Hutchins, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot with Company C, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st CAB, and Tulsa, Okla., native. "You feel like you're doing something useful and giving the ability for Soldiers to go home and see their Families, so it's a good feeling to be part of that."

Most would agree that the footprints made by the CAB will leave a lasting impact and a conclusion to the mission as the country transi-

tions to stability operations.

"We really focus on the Soldiers and powering down," said Col. Muth. "The only way we could make something like this work is to provide guidance to the Soldiers and allow them the latitude and the freedom to make decisions on their own."

"You have to empower the Soldiers and have them make decisions on the spot and to ensure that standards and discipline are not sacrificed for the mission but to make sure that they are reinforced," he added. "Our legacy is taking something that has never been done before and making it work."

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Staff Sergeant Lucas Collins, a Manchester, Ga., native with Company A, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, is the head of operations in his company's tactical operations center. He has served in this position for three months and has been responsible for the TOC's organization and daily operations. His commitment to excellence has enabled him to never fail to achieve superb results. He has expertly planned and coordinated the movements of over 20 escort patrols through the battalion TOC and the Provincial Joint Coordination Center with zero errors and has flawlessly operated the TOC with only two Soldiers. His actions have been an inspiration for the rest of his unit and mark him as a consummate professional and exemplary and effective leader. His outstanding duty performance and "leading from the front" attitude make him a most worthy selection for the Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



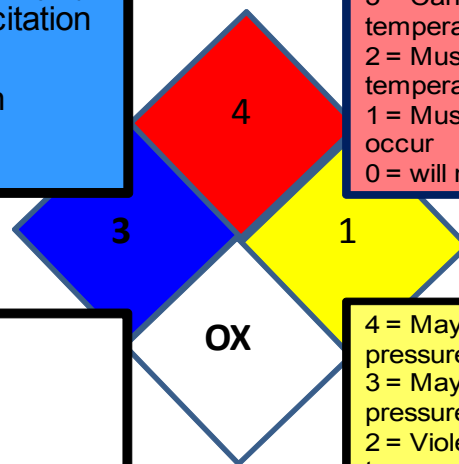
Mr. Austin Arnold, a Bowie, Texas, native with Rockwell Collins, is Task Force Marne's lead civilian technician for the Satellite Transportable Terminals supporting United States Division-North's WIN-T architecture. Arnold manages six field service representatives for USD-N and has been a vital asset to the G6 team, serving as the subject matter expert for all WIN-T satellite issues. He is an integral part of connecting WIN-T satellite assets between all echelons of Task Force Marne, enhancing their reliability through expert troubleshooting and rapid response for maintenance. Arnold's efforts are crucial to the division's ability to not only identify equipment issues but prevent them by providing insight and guidance to site operators across Northern Iraq. In addition to his normal duties, Arnold regularly travels throughout the USD-N operating environment to train and support over 50 sites. Arnold's dedication to our mission and commitment to excellence make him a most worthy selection for Task Force Marne's Service Provider of the Week.

Safety thought for the week: _____ National Fire Protection Association Warning Label

4= Can be Lethal
3= Can cause serious permanent injury
2= Can cause temporary incapacitation or residual injury
1= Can cause significant irritation
0= No hazard

4 = Will vaporize and readily burn at normal temperatures
3 = Can be ignites at almost all ambient temperatures
2 = Must be heated or high ambient temperature present to ignite
1 = Must be preheated before ignition can occur
0 = will not burn

ALK = Alkaline
ACID = Acidic
COR = Corrosive
OX = Oxidizing
W = Reacts violently or explosively with water and oxidizer



4 = May explode at normal temperatures and pressures
3 = May explode at high temperature and pressures
2 = Violent chemical change at high temperatures and pressures
1 = Normally stable, high temperatures may make unstable
0 = Stable

Mark your hazards for 1st Responders - Safety is Leadership in Action!

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Police call 'Ma' to identify burglary suspect

www.onlineathens.com

Investigators are looking for an Athens man who broke into the Howard B. Stroud Elementary School on the night of Monday, Aug. 16, but left behind his cell phone, Athens-Clarke police said. Officers responded to an 11:25 p.m. burglar alarm and saw a man in the school's cafeteria, but he ran through a back door, police said.

He dropped his cell phone, which had a programmed number for "ma," police said. When an officer called the number, he spoke with the suspect's mother who said she didn't let him live with her anymore because he always steals, according to police.

The woman told officers her son stays with his grandfather in Colbert, and that he was supposed to appear in Madison County Superior Court on a burglary charge, but he didn't show up, police said.

Operation Run-A-Lot

Challenge yourself to run Task Force Marne's 10-miler, Oct. 10, 2010. Start training now by participating in the 5k Run-For-Fun, Aug. 24 on COB Speicher. Next month, there will be a 10k to help prepare runners for the 10 miler in October.

BOB ON THE FOB by SGT Albert J. Merrifield

LET'S SEE, WHAT AM I FORGETTING? I'VE GOT MY NEW RUNNING SHOES, FOR GOING TO THE SHOWER, MY 4 BAGS OF CHIPS, 3 12-PACKS OF SODA, 2 NEW PT SHIRTS FOR SLEEPING IN... HEY, DID THEY JUST GET NEW MOVIES? OH, MAN, I NEED ALL THOSE, TOO! I GUESS I'LL MAKE TWO TRIPS... OH, AND THOSE NEW XBOX GAMES, TOO...



FOB locust n. (fob'lo·cəst)

Suggested by CPT Mathew Burch, 501st STB

1. Migratory grazing sub-species of fobbit, often found in food courts, PX/BX, and Class I yards. FOB locusts grazing habits will cause them to completely empty any store, restaurant, or supply yard of any and all goods that anyone else could possibly want. The hoarding nature of the FOB locust means that none of the items purchased, taken, or stolen will ever be shared, but rather hidden in a secret stash for later use by the FOB locust. (See also *PX leprechaun*)

To see more "Bob on the FOB comics, visit www.facebook.com/bobonthefobcomics

THE

North Star

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