

The North Star

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



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Hawaii NCOs equip Iraqis with confidence thru training

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

Just after completing a weeklong cordon and search course senior non-commissioned officers with the Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade began the land navigation and map reading portion of a three-month infantry course with U.S. forces at their headquarters in Laylan, near Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 11.

The training is being facilitated by Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, currently deployed to Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Kirkuk.

After the 50 KRGB senior NCOs complete this portion of the course they will be able to plan missions more effectively, said Sgt. Benjamin Sparkman, a St. Louis, Mo., native and trainer from Co. B.

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Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade soldiers demonstrate clearing a house before receiving a certificate of completion for cordon and search training, at the KRGB headquarters in Laylan, near Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 11.

Photos by Pfc. Jessica Luhrs, 1st AATF, 1st AD PAO
(above) Sergeant Benjamin Sparkman, a St. Louis, Mo., native and a team leader with Co. B, 1/14th Inf., 2nd AAB, 25th ID, tells a Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade soldier "good job" after correctly identifying a point on a map during land navigation training, at the KRGB headquarters in Laylan, near Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 11.

Specialist gives CP-North undivided attention

By Spc. Jennifer Montagna
135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Redeployment can be an exciting time for Soldiers, but it's also a stressful time for logistics offices. Tracking equipment and making sure everything ends up in the right place is a large task for just a few Soldiers to accomplish. The Command Post – North Logistics Office is receiving support from a new member, Spc.

Tyler Bahrke. Spc. Bahrke was assigned to CP-N to assist the logistics office with preparing for the arrival of 4th Infantry Division, out of Fort Carson, Colo., and the transfer of equipment this fall.

Sergeant 1st Class Lorenzo Mills, the CP-N Logistics Office noncommissioned officer in charge, understands

the importance of being ready for the changeover and the process to do it.

“Once our replacement unit arrives we will visually show them each piece of Theatre Provided Equipment and serial number. After that they will sign for it making every piece of equipment accounted for,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mills, of Augusta, Ga.,

Theatre Provided Equipment is all supplies that have been provided to a unit in theatre. TPE does not include any equipment a unit has brought with them from the U.S.

“It's more efficient to have a logistical supply specialist, who knows the systems we use, and whose only focus here is getting this done and he's doing an outstanding job,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mills of the newest CP-N Soldier.

While many of the staff members at CP-N hold numerous positions in order to accomplish the overall mission of supporting Task Force Marne Deputy Commanding General Support, Brig. Gen. Tom Vandal, Spc. Bahrke only has one mission: preparing CP-N for its departure.

“I know how to use the Property Book Unit Supply

system's full potential which makes everything I'm doing more efficient,” said Spc. Bahrke, who hails from Minnetonka, Minn.

The PBUS is a logistical supply system that allows its users to view a unit's full hand receipt and make sub-hand receipts when needed, making all TPE easier to account for.

“The only struggle I've had so far is familiarizing myself with the Command Post and FOB Marez. Everything else has been pretty simple. The CP-N staff is friendly and helpful when it comes to checking items in their offices,” said Spc. Bahrke.

Originally stationed at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Spc. Bahrke was relocated to CP-N specifically because of his knowledge and experience with supply.

“It's a good experience, being here, because it gives me a chance to sharpen my skills which will help me with my career and professional development in the Army,” said Spc. Bahrke.

Both Sgt. 1st Class Mills and Spc. Bahrke agree that the best thing units can do to prevent confusion or extra work during redeployment is by keeping good personal supply accountability.



Photo by Spc. Jennifer Montagna, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Specialist Tyler Bahrke, a unit logistics specialist, verifies serial numbers on CP-N's hand receipt in preparation for the unit's redeployment. Specialist Bahrke relocated to CP-N from COB Speicher this month to assist CP-N's logistics office.

Are YOU Training For:

10 10 10

***If not*, there is still time to prepare for the
Task Force Marne 10 miler,
Oct. 10, 2010.**

"I feel like this training taught our mechanics a lot of the basics they did not know,"

- Col. Fatah, training officer for the KRGB

Kurdish soldiers learn techniques to teach, turn screws, wrenches

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

More than 30 soldiers of the Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade graduated from the "Ready First" Tactical Maintenance Program, at the KRGB headquarters in Qara Anjir, near Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 23.

The month-long course was facilitated and developed by "Ready First" mechanics with Company B, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Armored Division, out of Fort Bliss, Texas.

During the course KRGB soldiers learned basic operator preventive maintenance checks and services, from "Ready First" mechanics, then progressed into advanced engine maintenance and recovery operations.

At the graduation ceremony Col. Fatah, training officer for the KRGB said he is very proud of his soldiers.

"This training has been very helpful for our soldiers, they have learned a lot and I am very proud of them," said Col. Fatah.

Colonel Fatah also expressed his gratitude to the Company B mechanics for all of their hard work. "I feel like this training taught our mechanics a lot of the basics they did not know," he said. "Thank you for training them."

The KRGB training officer also said how he hopes the mechanics take what they learned back to their battalions to teach other mechanics.

The officer in charge of the training, Capt. Justin Herbe, also spoke to the soldiers.

It was great to have the opportunity to work with the KRGB mechanics. They are a very smart group and willing to learn, said Capt. Herbe, the commander of Co. B.

Captain Herbe said his mechanics plan to continue training the KRGB.

"We will be visiting the mechanics at their battalions regularly so we can continue to train them as they need help," he added.

Hear what the Task Force Marne Commander and Command Sergeant Major said to Family Members and Georgia residents about Operation New Dawn during a television interview Aug. 26. Go to the DVIDS Web site at: www.dvids.hub.net and search for Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo.



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

Staff Sergeant Eric Gonzalez, a native of Los Ang., Calif., and a platoon sergeant with Co. B, 1/14 Inf., 2nd AAB, 25th ID, awards a Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade Soldier with a certificate of completion for cordon and search training, at the KRGB headquarters in Laylan, near Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 11.

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"They will be able to plan a mission using terrain features and map reading instead of going into an area blind," Sgt. Sparkman said. "This is why it is very important they understand this training."

Sergeant Sparkman's platoon sergeant agreed with him.

"While the KRGB soldiers are learning these fundamentals they are also learning a very important skill; teaching others," said the Los Angeles, Calif., native, Staff Sgt. Eric Gonzalez.

"The trainers have the KRGB [NCOs] stand-up in

front of the class and teach, knocking out two birds with one stone," said Staff Sgt. Gonzalez. "When they get up there to teach it builds their confidence and tells us they have a good understanding of what is being taught."

The Soldiers of Bravo Co. hope this confidence will assist their partners in training their own soldiers after the course is complete.

"These senior leaders came to us to learn the fundamentals of being a soldier so they can share the fundamentals with their soldiers. In the end we expect all the KRGB to be on the same level," said Staff Sgt. Gonzalez.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Specialist Evin Galbreath, a Rochester, N.y., native with Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, serves with dedication to duty and exemplary support as a food service specialist assigned to Command Post North. His efforts have resulted in over 50 successful key leader engagements and distinguished visitor events hosted in Mosul, Iraq. While providing direct support to CP-N, he was also responsible for food preparation at US Forces - Iraq, U.S. Division - North, and Provincial Reconstruction Team events held at two separate operating bases in Mosul. In addition to providing culinary support to key leader events and mission critical conferences, Spc. Galbreath also prepared meals for weekly Soldier recognition events hosted by senior leadership. His tireless efforts, creativity, and "can do" attitude were reflected in the quality of the countless meals he provided and make him an excellent choice for Task Force Marne's Hero of the North.



Sergeant Pike, a Pensacola, Fla., native with Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, was a critical participant in a recent joint clearing operation with the Kirkuk Emergency Services Unit. As a dismounted element, his initial task was to participate in joint raids in search of enemy identified as high value targets. After his element initially identified no enemy in the primary target house, Sgt. Pike noticed an individual observing his blocking position. Believing him to be suspicious, Sgt. Pike directed an ESU clearing element to secure the suspicious individual. He quickly identified the individual as the unit's number two ranked HVT and the ESU detained and secured him. As a result of Sgt. Pike's situational awareness, thorough preparation and focused mission execution, the ESU detained an individual who would likely still be conducting attacks against U.S. and Iraqi forces. For his total professionalism and dedication to excellence, Sgt. Pike is an outstanding choice for Task Force Marne's Hero of the North.

BOB ON THE FOB by SGT Albert J. Merrifield

Yeah, yeah, yeah... I know they're on a patrol base, with limited water, electricity, and daily attacks, but it's not tough like it was during OIF I... Man, I remember one time, we were staying in this palace, and I ran out of butane in my lighter, so I had to use a match on my cigars...



Storyfeller
n. (stor'·e·fel'ər)

1. One of few animals common in all areas of the world, the storyfeller is drawn to the sound of talking like a moth to flame. The mating call of the storyfeller is to "one up" any and all stories, anecdotes, jokes, and tales being told within its hearing. Storyfellers native to Iraq and the surrounding areas are commonly heard denigrating any stories that don't involve how tough things were during OIF I, no matter how plush and easy the storyfeller's job during OIF I was, or how hard the jobs of those around storyfeller currently are. Storyfellers are often found in areas with high concentrations of **good idea fairies**. See also *OIFer*.

Visit www.facebook.com/bobonthefobcomics for more comics.

You are invited

Hammer of the Broads
(Led Zeppelin All-Girl
Tribute Band)

Where: COB Speicher

When: Sept, 8

Lone Wolf Comics

Where: India/Diamondback - Sept. 12

Where: Cobra / Warhorse - Sept. 13

Where: McHenry/Warrior - Sept. 14

NFL Kickoff

Arizona Cardinals Cheerleaders

Where: FOBs Sykes/Marez

When: Sept. 18

Filter

Where: COB Speicher, main gym stage

When: Sept, 20

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Fishermen Cling To Cooler To Stay Alive

www.kirotv.com

TULALIP, Wash. –Two local fishermen lost their boat and almost lost their lives on the morning of Monday, Aug. 23.

George Fryberg and Tony Solomon from Tulalip were fishing for sockeye salmon on their 30-foot gill netter just off the coast of San Juan Island at Salmon Bank when their boat caught so many fish that it sunk, bow first. KIRO 7 North Sound reporter Lee Stoll said the two things that saved their lives were their survival suits and a cooler that they clung on to until they were rescued.

For 40 minutes, they were in the dark, in the frigid water and in trouble.

Karen Fryberg, the mother of one of the fishermen, got the call just before 3 a.m. that her son and his friend were in trouble.

She told Stoll that she didn't really want to believe it was true because she always worries when he goes out fishing at Salmon Bank.

"He said that after they got their wet suits on, it was within three minutes and their boat was down," said Karen.

Glen Gobin, a tribal council member who was fishing nearby, heard the distress calls and headed to the scene in his boat. "It's just lucky that we found them. I've been on too many search and rescue missions

where we can't find them," he said.

Officers who talked to the men say they think they were taking on water before the large catch but don't know exactly what caused the boat to sink.

Hawaii man sues; claims video game is too addicting

HawaiiNewsNow

HONOLULU, Hi - A Hawaii man is suing the maker of an online video game because he says the game is too addicting. Craig Smallwood says he has played Lineage II for about 20,000 hours.

The lawsuit alleges that he is so addicted, he can't do daily activities like get up, get dressed, bathe or communicate with family and friends. Smallwood says the company, NCSOFT of South Korea, did not display proper warning that the game could become addicting.

The NCSOFT web site describes the game as "an immersive and dramatic fantasy world known for its unique political and economic systems."

A federal judge is allowing the lawsuit.

56-year-old chimp gives birth at zoo in Kansas

<http://www.thenewstribune.com>

MANHATTAN, Kan. –A 56-year-old chimpanzee has surprised officials at a zoo in northeast Kansas by giving birth.

Officials at Sunset Zoo in

Manhattan announced Monday, Aug. 23, that Suzie the chimp gave birth to a female on Aug. 18 and that the mother and baby are in good health.

Zoo director Scott Shoemaker says Suzie was taken off birth control because of medical concerns - and because zoo officials didn't think she would get pregnant at her age.

Zoo curator Mark Ryan says he hasn't heard of any older chimpanzee who has given birth anywhere in the country.

The Manhattan Mercury says Suzie is the third oldest chimpanzee among zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums.

Chimpanzees in captivity usually live to about 60 years of age.

Washington Bride-to-be arrested on wedding day

<http://www.wtsp.com>

BELLEVUE, Wash. – A 31-year-old bride-to-be heading home from her bachelorette party was arrested for drunk driving hours before she was to get married.

Washington State Patrol Trooper Christina Martin says the woman was driving over 90 mph on the morning of Saturday, Aug. 21, weaving in and out of traffic on Interstate 405 in Bellevue when she was stopped.

Martin says a trooper arrested the woman, processed her and let her take a cab home in time to make it to her early afternoon wedding in Burien.

THE

North Star

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2nd Advise and Assist Brigade,
3rd Infantry Division

2nd Advise and Assist Brigade,
25th Infantry Division

1st Advise and Assist Task Force,
1st Armored Division

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