

The North Star

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Iraqi commandos take lead, arrest five wanted individuals

By Capt. Timothy Nash,
CP South, Task Force Marne Public Affairs Office

Iraqi commandos cordoned off an area in the village of Zanjaliyah, in Salah ad-Din province and arrested five wanted individuals, Aug. 23. The mission was intended to be a combined operation, but U.S. Soldiers were present only to provide support, if needed.

Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battal-

ion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, were on standby to support the Commando Battalion of the 16th Iraqi Army Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division.

"It was really more of an accompanied operation than a combined operation," said Col. Jack Daniels, the 4th

IA Division Stability Transition Team Chief and the senior adviser to 4th IA Div. "All the intelligence data was Iraqi driven. The operations plan was Iraqi driven and the majority of the troops that took part were Iraqi troops. We just provided [support] from 1/27. Frankly, they could have done it as an independent operation."

The operation began as an assessment of the 4th IA's capabilities to plan and execute a mission, which was developed with minimal support or assistance from U.S. forces.

Captain Chris DeFiori, company commander for Co. B, 1/27th Inf., thinks the Iraqi soldiers in the 4th IA need very little direct support during their missions.

"A lot of the times we have to provide a convincing reason for them to take us, because they are a lot more confident and can really handle a lot of this on their own," said Capt. DeFiori. "In the past they've needed us for everything."

According to Col. Daniels, the mission was a great success that delivered a message to both the Iraqi Security Forces in Salah ad-Din and their U.S. counterparts. For Americans, it shows that the ISF and – more specifically – the 4th IA are willing and capable to take over security from the U.S. military when Soldiers leave Iraq in 2011.

The next step, said Col. Daniels, is helping the Iraqi Army work with Iraqi police, as well as the local and federal court systems.

"I think what we're going to see in the 4th IA's area is more and more of the Army working collectively with the police to conduct combined missions," said Col. Daniels.



Courtesy Photo

(Left) Captain Chris DeFiori, the commander of Company B, 1/27th Inf. Regt, 2nd AAB, 25th ID, and Staff Brig. Gen. Emad discuss the operation on the objective in Zanjaliyah Village in Salah ad-Din province, Aug. 23.



Photo by Sgt. Johnathon Jobson, TF Marne Public Affairs

Sergeant First Class Clifton Divine, the asset visibility noncommissioned officer for the Task Force Marne G-4, rushes to get a head start after the beginning of the "Why Not Run," 5k, hosted by the 21st CSH, Aug. 24, at COB Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq. The run was not meant to be a major competition, but rather a training event for the upcoming Task Force Marne 10-Miler, Oct. 10.

"Why not Run" helps Soldiers prepare for 10-miler

**By Sgt. Johnathon Jobson
TF Marne Public Affairs**

For runners at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, the "Why Not Run" 5k fun run, held Aug. 23, was not just another reason to run. It was a train-up event for the Task Force Marne 10-Miler, to be held Oct. 10.

In addition to routine running, individuals will also have another intermediary practice run Sept. 24 – Top of Iraq 10k.

Proper training techniques are important for anyone who plans on running in the 10-miler this fall. This includes runners with marathon experience and those who are aspiring to challenge themselves during the deployment.

Individuals need to start training by building a training plan that fits their level of fitness, said Capt. Stephen Krutko, commander of Company B, 21st Combat Support Hospital and an experienced runner.

"Trying to start at a higher training level will raise their heart rates and possibly cause injury," the Cleveland,

Ohio, native Capt. Krutko added.

"Running during the heat of the day should also be avoided. There is nothing significant added to their training by running in the heat."

For Sgt. 1st Class Clifton Divine, the asset visibility noncommissioned officer for the Task Force Marne G-4, the train-up runs, to include the TF Marne 10-Miler, is providing additional training markers to supplement the program he is using to train for the Army Ten-Miler to be held Oct. 24.

"I am on a 10-week training program, it is really to train for the Army Ten-Miler," said Sgt. 1st Class Divine, a native of Whittier, Calif. "I base the majority of my training technique on heart rate ... to keep my heart rate at a certain level, I vary my exercises throughout the week to include distances and speed training."

Soldiers should begin their training at a level that they are comfortable with and gradually increase their pace and distance, Capt. Krutko said.

"Soldiers need to train within their

own capabilities. They should not go out and try to run 10 miles right away," Capt. Krutko said. "The trick that most runners go by is picking a mileage goal per week and adding five miles to that per week until they attain the ability to run the distance necessary for the race they will be competing in."

Train up events like the "Why Not Run" and the upcoming Top of Iraq 10k can be worked into the Soldiers training program as milestones.

"It just so happens that the [TF Marne 10-Miler] is on the final Sunday of my training program, when I had planned to do a practice 10-miler," said Sgt. 1st Class Divine. "The 5k and the 10k are definitely good build-up events. I came in third in the 5k, but I plan to win the 10k."

The winners of the Why Not Run, 5k were Sgt. Jeffrey Creech with a time of 18:35 for the men and 1st Lt. Cassandra Bustamante, the officer in charge of the 392nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Direct Signal Support Team, 160th Signal with a time of 21:57 for the women.

IP learn to counter explosives with robot

**Article and photos by Pfc. Jessica Luhrs,
1AATF, 1st AD PAO**

In a classroom setting, instructors commonly use attention-getters to focus their students on the subject at hand.

For Airmen and Soldiers training 10 Iraqi Police Counter Explosives Team members how to operate an ANDROS HD-1 robot, the attention-getter was easy: a 200-pound robot that could ultimately save their lives and the lives of Iraqi civilians.

The members of the

Kirkuk IPCET are a part of a seven-day familiarization training program which began Aug. 25, and is facilitated by Explosive Ordnance Disposal Airmen, with the 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron and Soldiers with 38th Ordnance Company out of Fort Stewart, Ga., currently assigned to Task Force Troy-North, and deployed to Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq.

The purpose of the training is to assist the IPCET with operating new equipment and help them prepare to completely assume EOD

duties after the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Kirkuk.

The new equipment is being provided by the Iraq Ministry of the Interior and includes multiple bomb disposal suits, a disruptor, an exploder, X-Ray unit, bomb trailer and three ANDROS HD-1 robots; the IPCET will receive the equipment during their training.

During the first part of the familiarization training, ANDROS robot operations, the IPCET excelled, said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jason A. Luckenbach, an EOD team leader with seven years of experience and three

deployments. The Alama-gordo, N.M., native said he was very impressed with the IPCET.

"The level of knowledge the IPCET displayed today makes the EOD confident this area will be left in good hands," he explained.

Technical Sergeant Luckenbach said he is confident the new equipment and training the IPCET is receiving will save many lives.

"These tools and this training will give the IPCET a capability to disarm IEDs and do so safely, saving many lives."



Two Iraqi policemen with the Kirkuk IPCET put together an ANDROS robot during familiarization training at COS Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 25.



(Above) An EOD Airman with the 506th EOSS assists an Iraqi policeman with the Kirkuk IPCET during familiarization training on the ANDROS robot, at COS Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 25. (Right) Senior Airman Cooper Gibson, an EOD Airman with the 506th EOSS, assists an Iraqi policeman with the Kirkuk IPCET during familiarization training on the ANDROS robot at COS Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 25.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Specialist Thomas McKay, a Wilmington, N.C., native with Company F, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, is currently assigned to the Contingency Operating Base Speicher Air Traffic Control Radar Section and serves as the maintenance chief. Specialist McKay personally assumed a maintenance mission that was previously executed by four Soldiers. He demonstrated his technical expertise, professionalism and dedication by working more than 20 consecutive hours to bring a failing system to operational status in time for his unit to assume the mission. Specialist McKay was personally responsible for keeping six generators operational and in constant rotation. His ability to manage the complex system's requirements assured the unit's mission success. In addition to his normal work load, Spc. McKay also volunteered for several additional duties, including detachment mail room orderly and the Air Traffic Control building commandant. Specialist McKay is truly an asset to his company and is an excellent choice for the Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Staff Sergeant Dino and Sgt. Kimberly Bower, a Hohenfels, Germany, native with Headquarters Headquarters Operations Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, are selected for their outstanding performance as a Patrol Detector Dog Team. Staff Sergeant Dino and Sgt. Bower flawlessly performed more than 50 combat support and force protection missions, which included searching hundreds of vehicles for explosives, contraband and other illegal items. Staff Sergeant Dino and Sgt. Bower are in charge of training both the U.S. Army Dog Handlers as well as performing as the lead trainer for the Iraqi service dog handlers during joint training missions at Forward Operating Base Warrior. Staff Sergeant Dino is often called upon to demonstrate proper medical clinic procedures during joint veterinarian training. When not on mission, Staff Sgt. Dino enjoys stretching out on Sgt. Bower's bunk, watching the Flintstones, and getting scratched between the ears. In order to recognize these accomplishments, they have been selected the Task Force Marne "Dog Face" Heroes of the North.

Safety thought for the week: Third quarter accident reports down:

- Actual Class A/B/C accidents are down 25 percent from Task Force Marne's first quarter in country and 17 percent from the second quarter.
- Personal injuries are down, with sports related injuries down over 50 percent from last quarter.
- Vehicle roll overs have decreased from 11 last quarter to three this quarter.
- Improvement is needed in the areas of Unmanned Aerial Systems accident/loss and weapons related accidents.
- Strong leadership and active supervision is critical to continuing this positive momentum.

Safety is Leadership in Action !



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

When: Sept, 20

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Winthrop's marshal doesn't buy girl's story, issues littering ticket

www.wenatcheeworld.com

WINTHROP — Marina Brownlee thought she was doing a good deed for the town of Winthrop on Wednesday, Aug. 18, by distributing health department stickers around town for the city clerk.

But instead of a pat on the back, the 12-year-old girl got a \$124 ticket from the Winthrop marshal for littering.

The ticket actually went to Brownlee's mother, Natalie Crace, who is also the city's deputy clerk.

She said Marina was with her 9-year-old sister and a friend, and they were all passing out the stickers designed as a reminder to wash your hands frequently. "As far as they knew, they were doing their little community service," she said.

Winthrop Marshal David Dahlstrom said he has no reason to doubt the Winthrop resident who reported that Brownlee littered.

He agreed that she was passing out stickers. But according to the woman who called police, he said, "She threw them all over the yard and inside her car. And she came back and did it again later."

Crace said she believes her daughter, who told her they left four stickers at the woman's home: one at her door, one under an ashtray on an outside table, and one in each of the cars in the driveway which had the

windows rolled down.

She said the neighbor confirmed that when she talked to her the next day. The woman, she said, thought her daughter was another neighborhood girl who had been harassing her, so she called police because she thought the girl needed to be talked to.

Crace said she'd be the first to agree to punishment if she thought her kids had littered. "My kids don't litter. They pick up litter," she said.

They've also done other door-to-door work, like collecting donations for UNICEF and The Twisp City Pool, she said.

Crace said she's only upset about how the Winthrop marshal handled the situation. She said he "browbeat" her daughter in an attempt to get her to admit guilt. She cried for hours after he left, she said.

And even if her daughter did litter, she said, she would expect him to give her a stern lecture, and warn her of the consequences if she did it again.

Dahlstrom said he does everything he can to be even-handed as he enforces the law in his small, tourist town.

He said it's not his place to judge what happened. He received a complaint, and the complaint seemed valid, so he pursued it.

"When I talked to the daughter, she didn't tell me whether she did, or whether she didn't," he said. "That's why I'm letting the judge decide whether it's valid, or not valid."

He added that the matter is a civil

infracton, not criminal, and with conflicting information, it's best for a judge to decide the matter.

The marshal said he didn't give Marina a warning because that assumes guilt. "If I gave her a warning, it would mean I'm incriminating her. I'm saying, 'You did this,' and I'm warning her not to do it again," he said.

"I would like for the judge to be able to decide the truth."

Without further action, that's just what will happen next month.

Crace said Winthrop Municipal Court is held monthly. "All of the little girls are ready to go to court and tell the judge their story," she said.

Texas town wants facelift from Oprah

www.khou.com

PLEASANTON, Texas -- Pleasanton wants to get a makeover from Oprah Winfrey. Its effort for a facelift has caught the talk show queen's attention.

As part of Oprah's farewell season, she's doing a hometown makeover contest, and Pleasanton may be in the running to get one. The video was shot Aug. 29 after organizers got word from Oprah's producers that they may be interested in helping Pleasanton.

The contest aims to help towns hit with hardship during the economic downturn. Among Pleasanton's goals, the city wants to convert a building into a library, city hall and community center. No word on when they'll receive the final answer from Winfrey.

THE

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