

# The North Star

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



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## Task Force Marne Reflects ON SEPTEMBER 11

By Sgt. Johnathon Jobson  
TF Marne PAO

There is probably not an adult who does not remember the intricate details at the moment he or she found out that America had been attacked Sept. 11, 2001. Life changed or decisions were altered for some of the men and women of Task Force Marne after that date, known as 9/11.

Sergeant Joseph Hudson, an information systems noncommissioned officer for the TF Marne G-6 Information Assurance office, was serving in the U.S. Navy at the time of the attacks.

"On Sept. 11, I was [serving in the U.S. Navy] at Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan," said Sgt. Hudson, a Douglas, Wyo., native. "I was standing watch when the planes hit the World Trade Center Twin Towers and was back working in the communications shop when the first tower fell."

Other Soldiers were in school, some in college and others still in high school.

"I was going to school in France at the time; I was in the ninth grade," explained Greenville, S.C., native, 1st Lt. Gerald Jones, the executive officer for Headquarters and Headquarters

Operations Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division. "I was walking home from school. My dad was standing on our balcony as I walked up, and [he] told me that planes had hit the World Trade Center. I didn't believe him at first. It didn't seem plausible. It was not until I got into the apartment and saw the news that it really hit me."

For some, the attacks solidified their commitment to their country, to become a Soldier or to continue their service.

In Sgt. Hudson's case, the attacks and the conflicts followed were what led him in to the Army, after having already decided to leave the service.

"My ex-wife wanted me to get out and I had already made the decision to do so," said Sgt. Hudson. "Following the invasion of Iraq, I knew that I wanted to be there, on the ground, in the fight."

Sergeant Hudson said he knew if he went back into the Navy, he would be stationed on a ship, instead of on the ground in Iraq, so he joined the Army.

Some Soldiers had not yet enlisted when the World Trade Center and Pentagon were attacked and the passengers of Flight 93 thwarted plans to

fly the plane they were on in to another target.

Specialist William Murray, a civil affairs specialist with TF Marne G-9, was attending college in Hawaii, and was walking to class when the planes hit the towers.

"I didn't join the military for six years [after the attacks]," said Spc. Murray. "I knew that I wanted to, right then and there, but I also wanted to make sure I was clear about my decision. It was always in the back of my mind. We [were] a nation at war with terror. I wanted to do my part, that's why I joined the military."

Emotions ran high in the days following the attacks, but for most the initial reaction was simply one of shock. No one could believe that the U.S. had come under such an attack.

Major Brian Smith, a logistics planner for the TF Marne G-4, was watching the news in a coffee shop with fellow classmates before his graduation from the Captains Career Course at Fort Eustis, Va., when the planes hit the towers.

"It was a stunned silence in the

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# USD-N assists with displaced civilians

By Spc. Jennifer Montagna,  
CP-North Public Affairs

Task Force Marne Deputy Commanding General Support, Brig. Gen. Tom Vandal, has made several visits to internally displaced persons camps in Kurdistan and has met with government officials to assist the families who reside in those camps.

Hundreds of families along Iraq's borders have taken refuge in internally displaced persons camps throughout the past eight years of conflict. The Government of Iraq and the Kurdish Regional Government are looking for long-term solutions, but currently humanitarian support is being provided by non-military organizations and the KRG.

Camp Sangasar, in Sulaymanya province, is home to approximately 500 displaced families. Most of the individuals fled their Qandhil Mountain homes due to artillery fire. While their current camp is safe from artillery fire, there is another problem caused by the location of the village; it is located on a flood plain.

"Our engagement with KRG officials following the Sangasar visit was to have the KRG allocate space to move IDPs ... which will fix the short-term problem," said Brig. Gen. Vandal.

For the camp's residents, returning to their homes in the near future isn't a safe option. It is believed by government officials and Brig. Gen. Vandal that the artillery fire was an attempt to clear the village of civilians and that anyone who remains in the area may be labeled as terrorist suspects.

While families at Camp



Photos by Spc. Jennifer Montagna, Command Post-North PAO

***The Sangasar internally displaced persons camp in Sulaymanya province, Iraq, is home to approximately 500 families from the Qandhil mountain region. The KRG recently allocated land to move IDPs from these temporary tents to permanent land.***

Sangasar wait until they can make a safe return to their homes, the KRG has donated money and is setting aside land for farming.

Several IDP camps in the Dahuk province are in need of different assistance from their government. The people said their main needs are central services, such as water and electricity. Many families also need help maintaining the condition of their homes. Old Iraqi Army barracks have been turned into housing. Some are falling apart, and others are too small for the numerous families they house.

Like their Camp Sangasar counterparts, the residents of Dahuk province IDP camps feel that they cannot safely return home. According to the Dahuk Director of Displaced Persons, some of the families in these camps were forced there by Saddam Hussein's Regime. Many fled their home city of Mosul due to terrorist attacks.

"These IDPs only remember the conditions when they departed four or five years ago from Ninewa province when there were



***Task Force Marne Deputy Commanding General Support, Brig. Gen. Tom Vandal, speaks with a woman at an IDP camp in Dahuk. The woman explains that her family fled Mosul in the Ninewa province four years ago because of violence and has been living at the camp since then.***

around 300 to 400 violent attacks per month. Now, attacks are down to 10 to 15 per week," said Brig. Gen. Vandal.

While security has improved in Mosul, the KRG and GoI are looking for permanent homes. The U.S. Army is assisting them along

the way.

"The KRG is more than capable of providing for the humanitarian needs of these people. What we can do is engage senior leadership within the KRG to ensure that they are focused on long-term solutions," said Brig. Gen. Vandal.



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room,” said Maj. Smith, a native of St. Louis, Mo. “In a room designed to seat 25 or 30 people there were more than 75, and other than a few quiet sobs it was just silence.”

In remembrance of the 2,993 people killed in the attacks, President George W. Bush proclaimed that Sept. 11 be known as Patriot

Day on Sept. 4, 2002. As part of this proclamation, he directed that all American flags be flown at half-staff both home and abroad, and that a moment of silence be observed at 8:46 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, the time at which the first plane struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Joining and serving after

the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon holds different meanings and purposes for each Soldier. Specialist Murray said joining after the attacks has given his service a purpose in addition to just serving his country.

“I have always wanted to be in the Army,” said Spc. Murray, a Haleiwa, Hawaii,

native. “As kids my cousin and I would play Army men and we promised each other that we would one day join the Army. I was the one who actually kept the promise. For me, having joined after Sept. 11, gives me greater sense of helping continue the American way of life than I think it would have if I had joined before Sept. 11.”

### *Task Force Marne Reflects on the Events of 9/11*

*Watch this compelling video of commentary and footage at: [www.youtube.com/TFMarnePAO](http://www.youtube.com/TFMarnePAO)*

# September is Suicide Prevention Month

By Ash McCall  
[www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil) article

The U.S Army recognizes September as Suicide Prevention Month. During this month, the Army will demonstrate its continuous commitment to enhancing Health Promotion/Risk Reduction/Suicide Prevention (HP/RR/SP) programs for Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, and Families. Suicide Prevention Month is an Army-wide opportunity to raise awareness, understanding, and use of Army HP/RR/SP programs among key internal and external audiences.

More than 160 active-duty Soldiers committed suicide during 2009, continuing a five-year trend of increasing suicides in the Army. In response, the Army instituted a multi-level, holistic approach to HP/RR/SP that recognizes the many challenges our Soldiers, Families and Army civilians face.

U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff, Gen. Peter Chiarelli, said, “Soldiers today live a lifetime in their first six years of service; [they] experience more during their first enlistment than most of their civilian peers will in a lifetime.”

Army programs aim to assist Soldiers, Families and Army civilians with their “lifetime” of challenges, including substance abuse, financial and relationship problems, post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury.

In spring 2009 the Army established the Army Suicide Prevention Task Force (ASPTF), an organization focused on promoting Soldier, civilian and family wellness. The Army also launched the Army Campaign Plan for Health Promotion, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention (ACPHP) in an effort to better synchronize efforts between multiple programs focused on care and support services.

Since its inception, the ASPTF has

identified and executed more than 240 improvements to Army HP/RR/SP efforts, and, in July 2010, released the Army HP/RR/SP Report.

The Army will continue to strive to maintain a combat edge while reinforcing the garrison systems necessary to best care for Soldiers, DA civilians and Families.

It will do so by directly addressing the more than 240 recommendations made in the Army HP/RR/SP report released July 2010. In August 2010 the Army Suicide Prevention Task Force (ASPTF) was reorganized as the Army Health Promotion, Risk Reduction Task Force, that is now responsible for implementing these recommendations.

Visit the **U.S. Army’s STAND-To!** and **[www.preventsuicide.army.mil](http://www.preventsuicide.army.mil)** to get more information. Also, don’t forget to Ask your buddy; Care for your buddy; and Escort your buddy if you think or she needs help.

### Lone Wolf Comics

Where: Speicher - Sept. 11

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

## You are invited

### USA Express

### (Army Touring Show Band)

Where: FOB Warhorse - Sept. 21

Where: COS Warrior - Sept. 22

### Filter

Where: COB Speicher

When: Sept. 20

### Galaxy

Where: FOB Sykes

When: Sept. 24

### Sacramento Kings Dancers & Andy Davis Tour

Where: JSS India/ FOB Marez

When: Sept. 28

## Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Specialist Clarence Norton, a Georgetown, S.C., native with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, is the Fire Direction Center's advanced field artillery tactical data system computer operator and lead gun truck driver. He is also the battalion's Raven unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operator and exemplifies the total Soldier. Specialist Norton's selfless service and dedication to duty are second to none. He routinely conducts convoy escort patrols during the day and then supports the battalion by flying the UAV at night. Due to his diligent maintenance and pre-flight inspection efforts, no malfunctions have occurred during his UAV flights. He constantly volunteers to instruct his peers on basic warrior tasks and better himself personally and professionally by enrolling in online college courses and studying for Soldier boards. His dedication to his unit's success sets the standard and provides an inspiration for his fellow junior-enlisted Soldiers to emulate. Specialist Norton's outstanding performance and dedication to his unit and its Soldiers make him an obvious choice for the Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Staff Sergeant Daico and Sgt. Chiedu Ginikanwa, a Chievres, Belgium, native with Headquarters Headquarters Operations Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, are selected for their outstanding performance as patrol explosive detector dog team. Staff Sergeant Daico and Sgt. Ginikanwa are the only team from Belgium in United States Division-North and are an intricate part of 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, supporting the Mutheria Port of Entry. Staff Sergeant Daico and Sgt. Ginikanwa have conducted 100 force protection missions, including searching over 2,500 vehicles and 10,000 pieces of luggage for explosives and other illegal items from Iran. Staff Sergeant Daico loves the spotlight and being noticed. When not on mission, he enjoys walking around Contingency Operating Base Edge, demanding attention. Staff Sergeant Daico enjoys capturing insurgents and the occasional decoy; his motto is "take a bite out of crime". In order to recognize these accomplishments, they have been selected as Task Force Marne "Dog Face" Heroes of the North.

# Folklore group, long-time performers from Iraq

## Cultural Tidbit Special to the North Star

The National Folklore Group of Iraq (NFG) was established in 1971 with the objective of preserving the folk-dancing heritage of Iraq and acting as cultural ambassadors for their country. They are composed of 12 to 15 dancers.

The group became popular in Iraq in the '70s and '80s, training with master instructors from overseas and performing at international festivals in 60 countries. They won many awards, including best international group for folkloric arts at a Bulgarian festival and first prize at the festival of Akerjontovi in Italy.

They performed for the United Nations in New York in 1980 and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for Friendship and Peace in Paris.

The group's success was hampered by the UN economic sanctions in the early 1990s.

Since the 2003 invasion, the group has only performed a handful of times due to the ongoing violence. The current Shi'ite-led government does not support the arts, despite the group officially representing Iraq through the Ministry of Culture's Department of Cinema and Theater. Ayatollah al-Sistani, the leading Shiite cleric in Iraq, has issued strict guidelines against dancing in various situations. Women are forbidden from participating in folk dancing.

Today the group is limited to practicing in the empty National Theater in central Baghdad. The dancers hide what they do from their family and friends, due to fears of attacks from religious extremists.

The group was once known for representing a unified Iraq, now that same Iraq will not let them dance. The New York Times wrote about the harassment the dancers encounter from a community suddenly against their "gyrating hips and shoulders." The dancers received threatening letters with

bullets and face pressure from loved ones to quit before they are killed. The group now struggles to recruit female dancers because of public pressure not to dance.

Back in their hey-day, the Iraq folkloric group visited Japan and China, and participated in seasonal festivals such as those held in Jordan, Tunisia, and Oman. The NFG took part in the Moroccan popular folk arts in Rabat and presented numerous shows in Lebanon and Algeria. They traveled to theaters in Moscow, Paris, Rome, Tokyo, Bucharest, and throughout the Arab world.

The group is responsible for displaying the Iraqi culture, using a mixture of popular heritage based on stories, games, and national history epics, and Arab heritage with stories of bravery, chivalry, and the Arab ancient traditions.

*Editor's note: The Task Force Marne Human Terrain Analyst Team contributed to this cultural tidbit.*

# LIFE LIBERTY CONSTITUTION DAY FREEDOM PROSPERITY

## Join Task Force Marne in recognizing Constitution Day

Constitution Day is celebrated on the 17th of September each year in the United States to commemorate the formation of the constitution.

The Founding Fathers formed and signed the constitution of the country at the Constitutional Convention

Sept. 17, 1787.

Task Force Marne is celebrating Constitution Day by encouraging you to write an essay on "What it means to be a U.S. citizen." Submit a 500-600 word essay to [louisa.jones@us.army.mil](mailto:louisa.jones@us.army.mil) by Sept. 17. The winner will be published in the North Star, the Frontline and on the TF Marne Web page.

Also, learn more about the Constitution, Founding Fathers, and American history by completing the cross word puzzles on page 5 of the North Star. Send your children to the Task Force Marne Kids Zone to test their knowledge. Go to [www.stewart.army.mil](http://www.stewart.army.mil) and click on the Task Force Marne tab, next click on puzzles. Expect more fun next week.

## Constitutional Word Find



### WORD LIST

Benjamin Franklin  
Bicameral  
Congress  
Constitutional Convention  
Continental Congress.  
Daniel Carroll  
Declaration of Independence  
Delegates  
Edward Rutledge  
Elbridge Gerry  
Executive Branch  
Federalist Papers  
Legislature  
Northwest Ordinance  
Oliver Wendell Holmes  
Patrick Henry  
Representatives  
Revolutionary War  
US Constitution  
Alexander Hamilton  
Articles of Confederation  
Founding Fathers  
House of Representatives  
James Madison  
James Wilson  
John Hancock  
Samuel Chase  
Separate but equal  
Signers

## THE North Star

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2nd Advise and  
Assist Brigade,  
3rd Infantry Division

2nd Advise and  
Assist Brigade,  
25th Infantry Division

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