

The North Star

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



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New standard keeps insurgents out of city

By Spc. Jessica Luhrs,
1AATF, 1 AD PAO

When Capt. Jeff Kain drove to the Mamah Iraqi Police Station near Hawijah, Iraq, for the first time, Sept. 7, to meet with the police chief, he noticed something different about the checkpoints; something that sets a new standard for all IP stations.

"While we were driving up we noticed that the checkpoints were being manned by Iraqi police, Sons of Iraq and Iraqi Army soldiers, this is something

"We are responsible for our security now. We will do whatever it takes to keep the insurgents out of our area."

-Col. Hameed Omar Abdullah, the Mamah Police Chief

that is not seen often and sets a standard for other stations," said Capt. Kain, company commander for Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

According to the Mamah

Police Chief, Col. Hameed Omar Abdullah, he began this to show the citizens the Iraqi Security Forces are united to provide better security in the area and keep the insurgents out.

He said since the IP have been working with their ISF brothers the security has

improved in their area.

"Before the security was very bad but now everything is good because we are doing what we can to keep the insurgents out," said Col. Hameed, who has been with the IP for nearly 30 years.

To keep the insurgents out of the area, the IP frequently conduct patrols and other various operations with the ISF in addition to manning their multiple checkpoints.

"We are responsible for our security now," said Col. Hameed. "We will do whatever it takes to keep the insurgents out of our area."

IG assists redeploying Task Force Marne brigades

By Sgt. Chad D. Nelson
135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The Task Force Marne Office of the Inspector General works as an extension of the eyes, ears, voice and conscience of the commander. They ensure TF Marne units operate in compliance with Army regulations. In that spirit, the IG conducted a staff assistance visit, at Forward Operating Base Warrior, near Kirkuk, Iraq, Sept. 13-15. The 3rd Infantry Division and two brigades are slated for redeployment in the near future. One of the brigades is the 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Armored Division.

During preparations for redeployment, it can be very easy for a brigade-sized element to miss some important

details. The IG's visit helped ensure everyone stays focused, which ensures all Soldiers will be taken care of before, during and after their redeployment. The IG team did this by visiting with each of 1/1 AD's three battalions for a day.

During their visit with the 1/40th Inf., Sept. 13, the team spoke with everyone - from junior Soldiers to the brigade commander - to ensure unit members understand what measures were instituted to assist them and take care of their wellbeing.

"If you don't make sure systems are in place, it can all fall apart," said Lt. Col. Geoffery Ward, the IG chief for 3rd ID, about redeployment. The office of the IG refers to systems as simple plans of action that the bat-

talion develops and follows to keep important aspects of redeployment in order. Therefore, an award tracking system was created to ensure Soldiers are recognized for their service in Iraq.

After Soldiers redeploy and take their block leave, some might immediately move to another unit. In order to ensure these Soldiers receive their end-of-tour awards before they leave, a tracking system was set up by the battalion.

"We want everyone to receive their awards and evaluations," said Capt. Korneliya Waters, the G-1 Human Resources Section officer in charge, and one of seven experts who conducted the staff assistance visit.

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Captain Waters spent her day talking with the battalion's leadership, making sure they were following their plans for tracking awards and evaluations. She made sure everything was in order, including checking the deadline for submissions and how many Soldiers still needed to be submitted for awards or evaluations.

While Capt. Waters was conducting her inspection, Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Scott, the asset visibility officer in charge, and Sgt. 1st Class Clifton Divine, the asset visibility noncommissioned officer in charge, both from G-4, 3rd Infantry Division, conducted inspections of their own.

Along with receiving their awards and evaluations, Soldiers must concern themselves with their equipment, as it carries a hefty price tag. This is where the experts in the G-4 section step in.

"We're assisting [the command supply discipline program] to minimize [financial liability inspections of property loss] and loss of [organizational clothing and individual equipment]," said CW4 Scott. The asset visibility team did this by talking to all ranks of Soldiers over the course of the day.

During a meeting with junior enlisted Soldiers, CW4 Scott and Sgt. 1st Class Divine asked the Soldiers if their first-line leaders were helping them inventory their gear, with the reminder that if they had lost something, they would have to pay for it.

"It can be hard for junior enlisted Soldiers to pay thousands of dollars for equipment they lost on deployment," said Sgt. 1st Class Divine. After talk-



Photo by Sgt. Chad. D. Nelson, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Major Jacob Richardson, the division psychiatrist with the Division Surgeon's office, 3rd ID, conducts a sensing session with junior enlisted Soldiers from 1/40th Inf., Sept. 13. This sensing session, which was designed to evaluate Soldiers' perceptions of seeking psychological help, was part of the 3rd ID's Inspector General's staff assistance visit.

ing to the junior enlisted Soldiers, the team talked to higher levels of command and checked their property books to make sure the battalion was on track for redeployment.

While the G-1 and G-4 section ensured the battalion was tracking awards and equipment, the offices of the Division Surgeon and IG talked with Soldiers about their well being and mental health.

Major Jacob H. Richardson, the division psychiatrist, spoke with Soldiers, leaders and the chaplain to make sure the Soldiers were being cared for during this hectic time.

"The intent is to see if [the Soldiers] know why it is so important to identify high-risk behavior," said Maj. Richardson.

After a year of working extremely long hours in high-stress environments, some Soldiers need to seek professional help from a mental health professional or a chaplain. Major Richardson was on hand to make sure Soldiers knew what options they had available to them if they needed to talk to someone. Some Soldiers

refuse to seek help due to the perceived stigma of weakness. During his sensing sessions, Maj. Richardson tried to discover why these stigmas exist and to encourage Soldiers to seek help in spite of what others might say or think about seeing a psychiatrist.

The IG's staff assistance visit ensures brigade, battalion and company commanders, as well as senior and junior enlisted soldiers, are ahead of the curve when it comes to issuing awards and evaluations, identifying and taking care of at-risk and high-risk Soldiers, and minimizing the loss of equipment.

With so many people operating independently of one another in all these areas, it can be easy to lose sight of the bigger picture.

"It's very helpful having an extra set of eyes around here," said Col. James Swift, brigade commander for 1st AATF, 1st AD.

This is exactly what the IG team provided: an extra set of eyes. The team's intent is not to establish new techniques, nor is it to conduct an official inspection. Each brigade has its own

way to handle redeployment. The IG simply ensures everyone is complying with these unique processes, which will help mitigate problems back at the brigade's home station.

"We're identifying weaknesses in the system at all echelons of command," said Lt. Col. Ward, after having conducted sensing sessions with privates, platoon sergeants, leaders and company commanders. "We're trying to mitigate problems units might experience after redeployment."

"[The visit] does a lot of things, but – most importantly – it helps us refocus our efforts," said Lt. Col. Daniel Cormier, battalion commander for the 1/40th Inf.

Without the assistance of the IG, oversights by the brigade, battalion or company could have costly or life-threatening effects back home.

If, for example, a first-line leader does not ensure his Soldiers are inventorying their gear in Iraq and making sure they pack everything, those Soldiers will be forced to pay for the equipment out of their pockets.

Constitution Essay Winner

Americans embrace, build on diversity



Photo by Spc. Cassandra Monroe,
135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Specialist Andy Demars is an intelligence analyst with DSTB, 3ID and a Seabrook, N.H., native.

"I take as my guide the hope of a saint: in crucial things, unity, in important things, diversity, in all things generosity."

— George H.W. Bush

To be a citizen of the United States of America is

to embrace and be embraced by these tenants outlined by President George H.W. Bush. Ours is a nation united; by the common desire of all humans to live freely and build a better life for themselves and their children. Citizens of this country regardless of race, gender, or religion have been able to unite and rally around one another in times of hardship. Citizenship confers upon us all a membership in a select group that always comes together to protect and provide for its own.

The utmost attribute of that group of people known as Americans is the diversity that gives our nation strength.

Not only is diversity among our people, but the freedom to allow a diversity of thought as well. Citizens of this country come from every corner of the world to seek refuge from tyranny and oppression and to chase down the American dream.

The diversity that has resulted from an open and free society has contributed to the greatness of our country in innumerable ways.

When most people think of diversity they automatically think of skin color, but the most important aspect of diversity is the diversity of thought that is fostered in this country.

The ability to think, feel, and express ourselves in whichever way we choose so long as it impedes no one else's liberty is what separates the American citizen from a great deal of the world. Another admirable quality of the American citizen is his/her understanding that with the opportunities bestowed upon them as citizens comes the responsibility to look out for one another. The generosity that pours forth from the citizens of this country on a daily basis in many cases is overlooked. We can all see

on the news when our country comes together to give in the case of a large disaster, but the little things that we do when no one is watching is what makes an American citizen great.

The values that are ingrained in us as a nation that we receive as much in giving as we do in receiving is a big part of the reason I am proud to call myself an American citizen.

The attributes unity, diversity, and generosity taken together as a whole encapsulate the essence of what it means to be an American.

The strength of each individual citizen of this country has been and always will be in our ability to unite together and support one another regardless of race, color, or creed and move forward towards an even greater future for the American citizen of tomorrow.

Congratulate Spc. Demars for an excellent job.

Are you ready to run???

Time is ticking to train up for Task Force Marne's Top of Iraq 10K, Sept. 24!

You are invited

USA Express (Army Touring Show Band)

Where: COS Warrior - Sept. 22

Galaxy
Where: FOB Sykes
When: Sept. 24

Sacramento Kings Dancers & Andy Davis Tour

Where: FOB Marez/JSS India - Sept. 28

Queensryche
Where: FOB Warrior - Oct. 1
Where: COB Speicher - Oct. 2

Michael Peterson
Where: FOB Cobra/Warhorse - Oct. 4
Where: Samarra/Dagger - Oct. 5
Where: McHenry/Irbil - Oct. 6

USO Handshake Tour
Where: Edge, Cobra, Cruz Morris,
Samarra and Dagger - Oct. 17

Buffalo "Jills" Cheerleaders
Where: McHenry, Irbil, India, Heider,
Nimur - Oct. 19

Chuck Mulligan
Where: FOB Warrior - Oct. 22
Where: FOB Marez - Oct. 23
Where: FOB Warhorse - Oct. 24

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Corporal Rashuan Taylor, a native of Atlanta, Ga., with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Armored Division, is a dedicated and motivated Soldier who consistently gives a complete effort despite being constantly tasked to work outside of his occupational specialty. He is a mortuary affairs specialist on his fourth deployment for OIF and is a true jack of all trades. He continually volunteers to help other Soldiers and sections, devoting countless hours to ensure all classes of supplies are smoothly received and quickly issued to customers. Corporal Taylor was a supervisor and worker in the barrier materials supply yard, cross loading materials for transport to forward operating locations in support of the construction and maintenance of several bilateral checkpoints in the Kirkuk area. His actions greatly assisted the checkpoints' successful completion and security in the greater Kirkuk area. Corporal Taylor's dedication to service, willingness to serve in any capacity, and high performance standards make him an outstanding choice for the Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Mr. John Lamb, a Hinesville, Ga., native with the Division Tactical Battle Command, has trained the G-6 staff and has expertly supervised server operations and maintained the equipment for the duration of OIF 10-12. He completely committed himself to ensuring all Microsoft active directories, exchange mailboxes, sharepoint portal user accounts and content management, BCCS Server, CPOF and general operational requirements are up to date. He supports war fighters across the Task Force Marne's area of operations covering all organizational levels. During unit transitions, he's traveled to their locations to facilitate a smooth transition of capabilities. He provides continuous help desk support on the day shift, ensuring units can maximize their automations systems capabilities. Due to his professionalism and never quit attitude, he is a most worthy Task Force Marne Service Provider.

Safety thought of the week: **TAKE ACTION!**

Safety reports indicate that Mine Resistant Ambush Protecting vehicles are being found in the field with multiple gunner's restraint and gunner's platform configurations, installation errors, and field modifications.

Remember ...

- Comply with Safety of Use Message 10-008
- Inspect all MRAP gunner restraints
- Acknowledge compliance and complete all safety inspections seven days from the publication date



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TASK FORCE MARNE PENNANT CHASE CHALLENGE



Photo by Spc. Cassandra Monroe, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Sergeant Major Andrew McCaughey, the G-4 food service sergeant major with Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, cranks back before throwing a baseball at water bottle targets in the Accuracy Throw during the Task Force Marne Pennant Chase Challenge, Sept. 16, at COB Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq. The troops participated in the games to commemorate the best time of the baseball season and to get a break during the day.

Enter the Die-Hard Fan Contest!

The Die-Hard Fan Contest is a baseball trivia quiz for die-hard fans. There are 10 questions, and a bonus, published below. The first 10 people to send correct answers into the Public Affairs Office will be named "Die Hard Fan." Winners will be posted in the North Star, along with the answers.

Send your answers, along with your name, rank and unit, to USDNPAO@3ID.army.mil. If less than 10 people get the questions correct, the top 10 entries will be posted. Winners will also be recognized on the Task Force Marne Facebook page.

Questions:

1. How many seasons did Lou Gehrig play every inning of every game?
2. What Major League Baseball team has the best record during the first game of a series this season?
3. Which team leads the major league in pinch hits in 2010?
4. This season, Tim Wakefield had a 26-start streak of getting the decision in a game he started. Who has the longest streak of decisions from games he started?
5. Carl Crawford of the Tampa Bay Rays got 50 hits during the month of August, only the 27th major leaguer to do so. But another player got 53 hits in August. Who is he?
6. Two active players have 2,000 hits, 450 doubles, 250 home runs and 1,000 RBI for the same franchise. Who are they?
7. Who was the pitcher when Joe Niekro smashed his one and only major league home run?
8. What 60-year old gave one hit in three innings against the Boston Red Sox, in 1965?
9. Who is currently the only manager in MLB that never played in the minors?
10. Dan Uggla has hit at least 25 home runs in each of his first two seasons while playing at least 100 games at second base. Who did it first?

Extra Inning: Entering September, which MLB teams have the highest percentage of come-from-behind wins?

THE North Star

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3rd Infantry Division

2nd Advise and
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