

The North Star

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



Volume 1, Issue 17

December 11, 2009

TF Trailbazer donates supplies to Iraqi schools

**65th Eng. Bn.
Special to the North Star**

U.S. Forces and Iraqi Security Forces recently partnered to benefit children in Tikrit, Iraq, Nov. 24.

Months ago, 65th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade Task Force Trailblazer began planning a humanitarian-aid donation to local schools in Tikrit with the 4th Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiment. The Iraqis were very happy to be a part of this mission.

"These are the kind of missions that we like to do" said Lt. Col. Hameed, commander, 4th FER.

Iraqi officers suggested several schools as possible locations to conduct the donation drop, but the decision rested with Lt. Col. Hameed who chose one school and one orphanage.

Friends of Soldiers from Task Force Trailblazer also mailed a stockpile of personal toiletries, kids' toys and clothes. On Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Soldiers acquired locally donated backpacks and T-shirts.

The plan was to work through the Iraqis to make sure the goods were delivered to the selected donation sites. The day of the donation drop, 1st Platoon, 95th Eng. Co. started the day early at 4 a.m. to move to nearby Contingency Operating Location Spider to link up with their Iraqi partners with whom they had regularly trained.

Once there, the American and Iraqi Soldiers moved together in a combined convoy into the city of Tikrit.

"Led by our Iraqi partners, we drove into city streets that would go otherwise unused by [our] convoys. It was refreshing to see the daily life of Iraqis on the city streets but there was a quizzical look on their faces as they looked onto our convoy," said Capt. Miguel Lima, the 65th Eng. Bn. non-lethal affects officer.

When the Soldiers arrived, the orphanage was ready to greet them. Expecting to see a flood of kids coming from everywhere as they had when the engineers dropped off the furniture for the school earlier in the year, they were surprised. Instead, the children



Photo by Capt. Miguel Lima, 65th Eng. Bn. **Captain Keith Ferrell hands out candy to children at the Tikrit Orphanage, Nov. 24. Captain Ferrell, a Liberty, Texas, native, is a Chaplain with the 65th Eng. Bn.**

were all very well behaved and sat in their respective rooms and waited for the Soldiers to come to them.

The children, shy at first, soon warmed up as the Iraqi Army volunteers handed out the goods. The hallways were filled with Iraqis bustling
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Combined Federal Campaign - Overseas draws to a close

**By. Sgt. Johnathon Jobson
TF Marne PAO**

This year's Combined Federal Campaign - Overseas is drawing to a close. For personnel stationed in the United States Central Command area of operations, the deadline to make donations this year is Dec. 13.

As the only CFC campaign for Soldiers who are stationed or deployed

outside the U. S., the CFC-O is by far the largest. CFC-O spans the entire globe and covers five of the six U. S. combatant command operational areas. Through CFC-O, Soldiers can donate to their choice of more than 2,000 different charities.

Since its inception under President John F. Kennedy, the CFC has become the most successful fundraising model to date.

In 2008 alone, the CFC raised more than \$275 million. So far this campaign, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division has received more than \$30,000 for more than 200 contributors.

Donations to CFC-O charities can be made via pay allotment, cash or check. For more information or to donate to the CFC-O, contact your unit's CFC coordinator before Dec. 13.

24th Finance brings cash to outlying posts

By Spc. Justin Naylor
2BCT, 1st Cav Div. PAO

For Soldiers at small outposts in Iraq buying movies, hygiene products and luxury items isn't as easy as just going to a store and swiping a credit card.

Fortunately for these Soldiers, the finance troops from Charlie Detachment, 24th Finance Company, are always ready to bring much needed cash to small outposts throughout Kirkuk province.

"You can't get anything out here without cash," said Spc. Jacob Sanchez, a Norwalk, Calif., native and a human resources specialist for 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, at Joint Security Station McHenry in Kirkuk province.

"There are no ATMs, and you can't use credit or debit cards at the stores."

So once a month, the finance troops restock the Soldiers, at this and other bases in the province, with cash.

"We give financial support to the Soldiers that don't have the option of coming in to the main Finance Office," said Sgt. Philip Smith, a Camarillo, Calif., native and a financial management support team noncommissioned officer in-charge with Charlie Detachment.

Sergeant Smith and other Soldiers from his detachment at Forward Operating Base Warrior in Kirkuk visit three different outposts — Forward Operating Base Zaytun, Joint Security



Photo by Spc. Justin Naylor, 2BCT, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

Specialist Blaine Berquist, a Puyallup, Wash., native and a cashier with Det. C, 24th Finance Company, gives cash to a Soldier during a trip to JSS McHenry in Kirkuk province, Dec. 4. Specialist Berquist is part of a team of Soldiers responsible for providing cash to Soldiers at outposts that lack a more traditional Finance Office.

Station McHenry and Patrol Base Doria — for several days each month.

"We support about 1,200 Soldiers at these bases," said Sgt. Smith.

For the Soldiers at these out-of-the-way locations, there is an added benefit to having the finance Soldiers come by.

"If anyone has any questions or concerns about their pay, we can answer their questions, or we can take their paperwork back to fix their pay," explained Sgt. Smith.

This point was stressed again.

"If a Soldier has messed up pay, it hurts them and their Families, so we try to fix that for them," said Spc. Blaine Berquist, a Puyallup, Wash., native and a cashier with Charlie Detachment.

Although traveling to remote bases throughout the province once a month can be quite a challenge — rides aren't always easy to find here — the rewards of helping Soldiers have the money and resources they need outweigh the trouble involved with the long hours of travel.

"I just like helping the Soldiers," said Sgt. Smith. "My job is to support the Soldiers with what they are doing here, and that is the biggest reward for me."

"I am always very happy to see them come out here," said Spc. Sanchez.

And he isn't the only one. The lines outside of the finance tent often stretch out hundreds of feet.

"They hate our lines, but they love the end product," joked Spc. Berquist.

TF Marne Soldiers begin Hanukkah celebration

By Spc. Michael Adams
TF Marne PAO

This evening is the first night of the eight-day Hanukkah holiday, also known as the Festival of Lights..

It commemorates the re-dedication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean revolt.

When the Temple of Jerusalem was re-dedicated, there was enough oil for the lamp to burn for one day. Miraculously, the lamp burned for eight days.

Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Mednick, the chief of Air Operations and

the Jewish Distinctive Faith Group leader for Task Force Marne. This means he is able to lead people of his faith and conduct a service. He first became a lay leader in 1987 at Fort Campbell, Ky.

"I am proud of my country. I'm also proud of my faith and to be a Jewish Soldier," he said.

The Hanukiah has nine candles. Eight candles are to celebrate the eight-day miracle. The middle candle, also called the shamas, is to light the others. The center candle is the first.

Traditionally, it is lit by olive oil to remind believers of the original re-dedication. This year, Hanukkah will be from Dec. 11-19. Task Force Marne will be celebrating Hanukkah on Dec. 11 at the Main Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center at 8 p.m. and Sunday at the Main Dining Facility at 6:30 p.m. Twenty Jewish Soldiers will be flying in from all over Multi-National Division - North to attend the Sunday celebration.

People of the Jewish faith are invited to attend both events.

Georgetown, Mass., gives gifts to Soldiers early

By Spc. Michael Adams
TF Marne PAO

In this season of giving, Americans often give to their friends and family. But residents of Georgetown, Mass., decided to give to several groups of people they didn't even know.

Colonel Malcolm Burr, the red team leader for Task Force Marne, had people in his hometown of Georgetown, Mass., asking him what they could send him to make his deployment better. He told them he had it pretty good on Contingency Operating Base Speicher. But a lot of Soldiers, in outlying areas of northern Iraq, did not have some of the comforts of home he did and they could probably use the care package more than he could.

"Those are the guys that don't get a chance to come to Contingency Operating Base Speicher Speicher," said Col. Burr. "They don't have a gymnasium, a post exchange, a dining facility like I do." Colonel Burr gathered lists of what kind of goods the troops wanted and told the people he was in contact with back home what they requested.

His idea to help some of the Soldiers out, who do not have the com-

forts of home, turned into a mission by the residents of this small New England town to help out the Soldiers who are so far away.

When Mike Mullen got wind of



Courtesy Photo
Soldiers with 4IBCT, 1st Inf. Div., thank Mike and Trishia Muller for sending them, and many other groups around northern Iraq, care packages.

what Col. Burr wanted for the Soldiers, he decided to get the community involved. He decided to rent Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7608, in Georgetown, for a Sunday to have people bring in goods and some donations. He said he would have been happy if they were able to send 30 packages to the combat zone.

The town rallied together to assem-

ble more than 180 packages.

More than 150 Georgetown residents participated in the drive, which included packaging the goods, wrapping the goods and people writing letters to the troops thanking them for their service..

The packages were distributed to troops all over Iraq including Uganda security personnel who guard the D-Main headquarters.

The recipients flooded Muller and the volunteers with thank you cards for giving them a little piece of home.

Muller loved that he was supporting the troops any way he could. He felt it was so successful he is planning on making it a yearly event.

While he received a lot of praise for what he did, from Soldiers and his hometown alike, he felt the praise should be for the Soldiers serving.

"We feel like the work we have done to show support pales in comparison to the sacrifices made by our Soldiers," Muller said, wishing all Soldiers in TF Marne happy holidays.

Continued from Supplies, Page 1

about handing out the goods to the appreciative children. In private concert, some of the girls even sang some songs they had learned.

Lieutenant Colonel Hameed said the orphanage is the only one in Tikrit and needs support to continue to take care of homeless and injured children. Several days after the donation drop, the Governor of Salah ad-Din province, Mr. Hussein Mutashar, visited the same orphanage.

"The needs and the difficulties of the orphanage are on top of our priority list," he said.

After visiting with the children at the orphanage, the Soldiers moved on to the next stop. Class was still in session at the school when the Iraqi and American Soldiers arrived. The children were seated and well behaved as the 4th FER Soldiers handed out toys and school supplies.

The donated items didn't just benefit the children.

The adults working at both the orphanage and the school were given bundles of sewing supplies provided through a charity known as "Iraqi Bundles of Love". The charity collected fabric and sewing material bundles to give to communities in Iraq to outfit those who sew for necessity and hobby.

At the end of the day the engineers said they had a great feeling of accomplishment.

Captain Lima said the donation drop was also a chance to improve the image of the Iraqi Army as a whole. "We believe in selfless service and honor to duty for our country. The Iraqi Security Forces, while new to this concept, are quickly gaining the much needed respect they deserve for the job they do," said Capt. Lima.

Direct select to OCS

Twenty applicants will be selected by Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, commander of Task Force Marne, to go to Officer Candidate School. For the next selection board, all packets must be submitted to G-1 by Feb. 12.

In order to be selected, a Soldier must meet all qualifications without a waiver. Applicants must have a 4-year degree from an accredited institution, be an American citizen, possess a secret security clearance, be recommended by a lieutenant colonel or above in their chain of command, pass a physical training test, be 38 years old or younger.

For a full list of requirements go to http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/pdf/r350_51.pdf.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Specialist Ale Tanveer, of Edison, N.J., with Company C, 296th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, spearheaded the download of milvans in preparation for turn-in during recent retrograde operations. He also led the inventory of four additional tri-wall containers for turn-in to the Brigade Support Medical Office. He serves as the clinic shift leader and manages sick-call operations in the absence of a noncommissioned officer. He initiated the H1N1 inoculations and administered them to more than 200 Soldiers in one day. Specialist Tanveer's contant initiative led to the consolidation of all Class VIII items to the trauma room to include the critical restocking of all critical item shortages for three trauma beds. His Arabic language skills allow him to interact with the local national patients in the Troop Medical Clinic, making him a true force multiplier. Specialist Tanveer's performance and potential is that of an NCO and he can be counted on to accomplish all missions to professional standards. It is for these reasons that he's today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Sergeant Johanna Gutierrez, of Hialeah, Fla., is a human resources sergeant, with Headquarters and Headquarters Command, 779th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade. She has proven to be an invaluable asset to her battalion. She recently assumed the role of senior human resources sergeant, a sergeant 1st class position, when her supervisor assumed the role of battalion S-1. She took the additional responsibility with confidence and enthusiasm, excelling in all areas. Sergeant Gutierrez flawlessly maintains the rest and relaxation leave and pass program while simultaneously supervising her staff. While her latest focus has been administrative preparations for the 591st Engineer Company's re-deployment, her section continues to excel under her direction. Sergeant Gutierrez' dedication to excellence and outstanding performance reflects great credit upon herself, her unit and the Army and makes her a clear choice for today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North

Moviefone.com presents: 10 worst movies of the decade

- 10.- **The Adventures of Pluto Nash (2002)**- Eddie Murphy, once one of the top box office stars in the world, had a major flop with this sci-fi comedy.
- 9.- **Cat in the Hat (2003)**- After this movie's release, Dr. Seuss' widow banned anymore movie adaptations of her husband's work.
- 8.- **Little Nicky (2000)**- This dud had Adam Sandler playing the son of satan and Rodney Dangerfield was his grandfather.
- 7.- **Basic Instinct 2 (2006)**- While Sharon Stone held up well in this sequel to the 1992 hit, the script and plot did not.
- 6.- **Catwoman (2004)**- Halle Berry received a Golden Raspberry for worst actress, playing the title role.
- 5.- **Swept Away (2002)**- Madonna starred in this disastrous remake of an Italian love story.
- 4.- **From Justin to Kelly (2003)**- Silly movie musical had two leads who were finalists on American Idol.
- 3.- **Glitter (2001)**- Mariah Carey, who starred in the movie, discouraged people from seeing it.
- 2.- **Gigli (2003)**- Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez starred in this panned mob movie/love story.
- 1.- **Battlefield Earth (2000)**- John Travolta starred in what is considered to be one of the worst Sci-fi flicks ever.

Basketball Trivia Quiz

- 1) What basketball league, which disbanded in 1976, invented the 3-point shot?
- 2) Who is credited with inventing basketball?
- 3) Who is the National Basketball Association's all-time leading scorer?
- 4) What team has won the most NBA titles and how many have they won?
- 5) What basketball player, originally nicknamed 'the doctor,' is credited with popularizing the dunk?
- 6) Comedian/actor Bill Cosby pays \$1.05 to be an honorary member of what team?
- 7) Who was the first African-American basketball player in the NBA?
- 8) Who is the only player in NBA history to average a triple-double over the course of a season (at least 10 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists)?
- 9) Basketball legends Cedric Maxwell, James Worthy, Jerry Stackhouse, Sam Jones and David Thompson were all born in what state?
- 10) Where is the basketball hall of fame located?
- 11) What college team won back-to-back NCAA titles in 1991-1992?

**Answers will be in the next edition of
"The North Star."**

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Scantily-clad 'David' decked out as St. Nick

Associated Press

BIG SPRING, Texas – A Texas homeowner who adorned his front lawn with Michelangelo's "David" as a scantily clad Santa got more than just jolly laughs from his neighbors.

Barry McBee said he was aiming to make people chuckle by adding a Santa hat and white beard to the 5-foot-tall replica of the Renaissance statue with six-pack abs — an image at odds with usual depictions of a fat, jolly St. Nick.

Then, parents started calling Big Spring city officials saying their children were asking why Santa was naked.

"I just like to shock people to make them laugh, kind of break the monotony around here," said McBee.

Last week, code enforcement officials received an informal complaint and an officer went to photograph where McBee had placed the statue, which is normally in the back yard. The sculpture on the corner lot along a main road into McBee's subdivision did not violate

any town ordinances, and the copy of one of the world's most well-known statues did not involve any obscenity issues, said Linda Sjogren, city attorney in Big Spring, about 290 miles west of Dallas. But Sjogren, concerned that complaints would continue, decided to consult with others on a possible remedy.

She posted a query on the Texas Municipal League's secure Web site, which someone with access to then reposted on Facebook.

Sjogren left McBee a voice mail last week, requesting that he put more clothes on David.

McBee relented after his friends teased him as well, putting a pair of black and white faux-velvet shorts, with a Christmas bow, on the statue. "I think if it offends any children, I didn't want to do that," McBee said.

Stolen Wyatt Earp docket returned to Dodge City

KSNW-TV

DODGE CITY, Kansas - A little bit of Wild West history is back in Kansas. After being stolen nearly 60 years ago, an old police docket book

that dates back to the 1870's is finally back in Dodge City.

"They saw this as iconic, and if there was only one thing that Boot Hill Museum and Ford County and the Dodge City Historical Society and all of us can share the information from, this would be it -- I mean this would be that one thing," said George Laughead, president of the Ford County Historical Society.

"You know it was the time, the Old West and everybody carried a gun, and they wanted their guns, and a lot of fighting, a lot of yelling at each other," said Karen Pankratz, Boot Hill Museum curator.

For current Sheriff Dean Bush, the book's return is the highlight of his career. He's keeping a close eye on it so Dodge City doesn't lose the important piece of history again.

"I would hate for it to disappear again, there's been an awful lot of work and effort into getting it back," Bush said.

The docket was found after a year-long investigation that included the FBI. Officials found it after someone tried to sell it on the Internet.

OPSEC Reminder:

Check you badge awareness! Display your badge appropriately when in secure locations. Make sure you are aware of those around you and don't be afraid to challenge them if you see they are not wearing the right badge. Finally, when exiting the area, make sure you put away your badge (and make sure your buddies at the chow hall do the same thing)!

THE

North Star

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1st Infantry Division
2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,
3rd Infantry Division

2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,
1st Cavalry Division
3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team,
2nd Infantry Division

25th Combat Aviation Brigade,
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