

The North Star

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



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Tennessee unit executes critical mission 24/7

By Staff Sgt. Mike Alberts
25th Combat Aviation Brigade PAO

Nestled in a remote location, by design, is a special aviation operation in northwest Iraq.

Soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard's 1-230th Air Cavalry Squadron maintain and operate a Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP), 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week.

Second Lieutenant Jason Shaffer, platoon leader and FARP officer-in-charge, Troop G, 1-230th ACS is a husband and father of two, and a native of Nashville, Tenn. He has served in the Tennessee ANG for two years, after six years of active-duty service. He's responsible for the overall functioning of three FARPs. He ensures that the correct quality, grade, type and amount of fuel is delivered to each FARP, in addition to



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Alberts, 25th CAB, 25th Inf. Div. PAO
Specialist David Romano, a native of Jackson, Tenn., and qualified FARP specialist, Tennessee Army National Guard, 1-230th ACS, signals to the fuel truck operator to cut off supply as he completes the refueling of an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, Nov. 11.

spot checking the completion of daily service and maintenance tasks.

Second Lieutenant Shaffer explained why he has a special confidence in his Soldiers.

"Quite unlike operations at the

more established FOB FARPs, the operations ... run akin to those of a civilian fire station.

"When radios come on out here,

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'Dragon Soldiers' fake ailments for 47th CSH

By Spc. Shantelle J. Campbell
41BCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

Soldiers with the 47th Combat Support Hospital out of Honolulu, Hawaii, conducted mass casualty training, Nov. 20.

To help with the training, Soldiers with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kan., simulated casualties with minor injuries.

"As a CSH, we need to simulate treating a large number of critically injured patients at a time," said Capt. William Enslow, a Dryden, N.Y., native and emergency room physician with the 47th CSH. "Unfortunately,

if we draw those simulated patients from our CSH that means there are CSH medical personnel who are not training for what we need to be prepared for."

With the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Soldiers volunteering as patients, the 47th CSH can maximize training for their personnel, said Capt. Enslow.

For the first 10 minutes of the exercise, Soldiers with the 47th CSH had already begun treating at least 14 patients. Inside the emergency room, the doctors remained calm but steady as they aggressively assessed and treated the wounds of casualties.

"We try to simulate the injuries

using the usual mulage techniques – like simulated wounds, blood, tourniquets – we basically try to make the patients look like they would after being treated by an Army medic or combat life saver in the field and then brought to the CSH," said Capt. Enslow.

"Obviously, you can only get so realistic, but the other thing that we do is try to make the patient scenario as real as we can," he said. "Before we have the exercise we go through each patient's problem [and] try to teach them a little bit about the medical physiology so that they can participate

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Food, decorations to give home appeal

By Spc. Michael Adams
TF Marne PAO

Thanksgiving is a time for families to be together. While Soldiers can't be with their families in America, they can eat a Thanksgiving feast with their brothers and sisters at arms.

Sergeant Jason Snyder, a Homeworth, Ohio, native, and food service noncommissioned officer is a member of the 3rd Division Special Troops Battalion, who is working to bring a feast to the men and women stationed on Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

"We're going to have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner; the turkey, potatoes, stuffing, ham, all of the traditional dishes everybody would get back home," Sgt. Snyder said.

"We're working on a lot of decorations and ice sculptures to spruce up the Task force Marne Main Dining Facility to make it look nice."

For Sgt. Snyder and the Soldiers that work in the TF Marne D-FAC, keeping the facility ready for the many hungry servicemembers and civilians is more than just a job. They take pride in what they do on a daily basis. They know Soldiers miss home this time of year and they want to go a



A baker at the TF Marne Main D-FAC prepares a cake for the upcoming Thanksgiving feast on COB Speicher, Nov. 23.

little further to put Soldiers in a good mood. During the holiday season, the Soldiers at the TF Marne Main D-FAC are proud of what they do to put Soldiers at COB Speicher in the holiday spirit, according to the Ohio native.

"We love it," said Sgt. Snyder. "We absolutely enjoy the fact that maybe



Photos by Spc. Michael Adams, TF Marne PAO
Sergeant Jason Snyder, a food service specialist with TF Marne, places a decoration on the wall to prepare for the upcoming Thanksgiving meal at the TF Marne Main D-FAC on COB Speicher, Nov. 21.

we can give a little taste of home to some of these Soldiers that are here, so far away from home. We'll give them cheerful greetings make this a place where they can relax and forget they're deployed for a little while."

Specialist Tangi Allen, a Columbia, S.C., native, and food service specialist with TF Marne says the reason her comrades work so hard is to boost the morale of the Soldiers they serve on a daily basis. She said her section is so motivated to help Soldiers because they are close and most of the them have deployed together before.

"I left a Family to be with another family," she said. "I'm going to feel right at home during this deployment."

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Photo by Spc. Shantelle J. Campbell, 4IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO
Soldiers with the 47th CSH out of Honolulu, Hawaii, react quickly to treat injured patients during the unit's mass casualty training exercise, Nov. 20.

as accurately as they can. They do an excellent job."

Portraying a casualty with a

forearm laceration, Pvt. Joshua Douyard, a Detroit, Mich., native and utilities equipment repairer with

Company B, 701st Brigade Support Battalion, 4IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. said he was really impressed by the quick reaction of the 47th CSH Soldiers. and would like to be involved in this type of training again.

"I'd definitely like to do it again," said Pvt. Douyard. "If anything like this happens, I now know to look for head injuries and anything not seen."

"The training helped me [because] now I have a perspective on what I should realize and what should happen if it comes to a real life situation," said Spc. Tafia Key, a Wellington, New Zealand, native and Soldier with Company F, 701st BSB who acted as a distraught patient. "Today, I cried, showing an emotion that I probably would have if it were real."

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wherever the Soldiers are – and I do mean ‘wherever’ – they immediately drop anything they’re doing, put on their protective equipment, run to the fuel trucks and [service the aircraft]. At other locations, Soldiers are on shift. Here Soldiers work when the aircraft are flying which is all the time, any time.”

Staff Sergeant Derrall Tilson is Second Lieutenant Shaffer’s fuel and ammunition platoon section sergeant with 1-230th ACS. The 46 year-old native of Knoxville, Tenn., has deployed multiple times with the Tennessee ANG, and also as an active-duty infantryman. He’s been in and around FARPs since he transferred to the Guard in 1991.

“My biggest concern with operations on a FARP is always safety,” said Staff Sergeant Tilson. “In this job, we’re talking about aircraft that have active weapons platforms with rotors turning and Soldiers pumping fuel into helicopters, often at night.”

It was at Fort Sill, Okla., when the unit learned that only about 20 percent of the Soldiers were school-qualified to do the aviation job.

“We had cooks and water guys and personnel with various other job skills. We had to get everyone trained. And that has been my greatest joy; teaching and training Soldiers who know very little about this job to where they are all proficient,” said 2nd Lt. Shaffer.

One of those young Soldiers is Spc. David Romano, a food service specialist who was cross-trained. For the young Jackson, Tenn., native, switching from the kitchen to the FARP wasn’t a hard choice.

“I like to cook, but I’m from Tennessee; I really like being outside,” said Romano. “Getting a chance to meet local Iraqis and being out here in nature looking at the hills every day, that’s the reason being deployed is OK for me.”

The 1-230th ACS deployed with more than 600 soldiers from units in Smyrna, Alcoa and Jackson, Tenn., back in July.

Continuing the Legacy



Photo by Spc. Daniel Hale, 1415th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

From left Spc. Orlando Boneshirt, of 3rd DSTB, and Sgt. Albert Gentry, Pfc. Sheyona Sterling, Spc. Derick Stamp, Sgt. Brandon Nell and Spc. Brian Mackoway, all from 264th CSSB participated in the National Native American Indian Heritage Month celebration at TF Marne headquarters. All are Cherokee except Boneshirt who is Lakota and Sterling who is Blackfoot.

Native Americans speak from heart

**By Sgt. 1st Class Claudia Bullard
145th Mobile Public Affairs Det.**

Soldiers from the Indian tribes Cherokee and Blackfoot celebrated National Native American Indian Heritage Month by sharing parts of their history with others at Task Force Marne Headquarters, Nov. 21.

The celebration traced Native American history from the early 1800s to the present. Readings included excerpts from the diary of an Army private written during the Cherokee removal from southeastern United States to Indian Territory and Native American contributions in World War 1, World War 2, the Korean and Vietnam Wars to present

day.

Specialist Sheyona Sterling shared some of her Blackfoot values with the audience. Blackfoot women, said Spc. Sterling, manage the household and maintain community values, which she said has been passed down from her grandmother to her mother to her.

Major General Tony Cucolo, the commander of TF Marne, said times have changed drastically since he entered the U.S. Army as a lieutenant. The focus at the time was about getting rid of unfavorable attitudes toward minorities. “Now,” said Maj. Gen. Cucolo, “the focus is education. I think every time we go to these celebrations we learn something new.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Private 1st Class Jeremy Capron, of Mesa, Ariz., has distinguished himself while serving as a radio telephone operator for 3rd Platoon, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. He spent countless hours learning the radio systems that are used in

vehicles and while dismounted. Private 1st Class Capron took it upon himself to seek out help from subject matter experts, technical manuals and online research to learn all he could about his unit's equipment. Because of his hard work and dedication, Pfc. Capron is now able to quickly identify the cause of most radio faults and that quickly enables him to fill all radio platforms with the proper communication security and troubleshoot all vehicle-related faults. He also learned the Arabic language and culture and applied his self-achieved knowledge to preparation of Arabic classes for his platoon. For his hard work and dedication, Pfc. Capron is a most deserving choice for Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Specialist Riccardo Prioleau, of Orlando, Fla., is assigned to the Company A., 701st Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division as a petroleum specialist. He has led 20 convoys as a rabbit truck driver, covering more than 600 miles to various Forward Operating Bases in support of weekly re-supply

missions and partnership engagements. During those re-supply missions, he has assisted in delivering more than 35,000 gallons of combined jet petroleum, diesel fuel-2 and MORGAS fuel. His keen sense of sight and attention to detail on the road during combat logistics patrols aides convoys by providing heightened security and a 100 percent safe return rate. His sense of humor helps to create a healthy relationship between U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers. His knowledge, dedication and "Get After It!" enthusiasm continues to be second to none. For all of these attributes, Spc. Prioleau is a most deserving Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

Body language says more than words

Cultural Tidbit Special to the North Star

It is said that the eyes tell the soul of a man. In the Arab culture, people highly believe in this concept. They also believe and express a lot of their feelings and thoughts by the body language and facial expressions they portray.

When being greeted by an Arab man, you will notice that he will try to get as close as possible to you. Shake your right hand and will hold your upper arm (triceps area) with his left hand. This will put him close to you –

"He will also look you in the eyes to see your reaction."

a show of closeness and admiration. He will also look you in the eyes to see your reaction.

Always allow this kind of closeness and return the gesture (or even initiate it) and smile, as this will show your approval. If the relationship has developed to be of mutual trust, expect a hug and even a kiss or two.

The satisfaction or dissatisfaction, approval or disapproval may simply be shown by a facial expression, hand gesture, or body language, like sitting

in a certain way.

Be careful how you react to things in front of you, or to you. If it is something you do not approve of, try not to show it in your body language, unless you want it known that you disapprove.

If you are greeted with open arms and a smiling happy face, is a show of welcome and adoration.

The same open-arms gesture used with a sad face is a sign of sorrow and sadness.

Safety Thought of the Week: Wet Weather Driving

- Small amounts of rain can dramatically alter road conditions.
- Rain, dust, and mud can make roads in Iraq extremely slippery.
- Drivers must slow down and adjust their speed based on road conditions.
- Stopping distances will increase - so increase following distances.
- If you must drive through deep puddles, gently pump the brakes to dry them.
- Factor weather into risk assessments and develop contingency plans for adverse conditions.
- Rehearse rollover drills before every mission.
- Inspect windshield wipers for serviceability and keep windshields and lights clean at all times.
- Enforce the use of seat belts and restrain systems.

Remember: Reduce your pace as weather conditions deteriorate



REGIONAL HEADLINES

Drunk woman calls 911 on herself

Associated Press

AUBURN, Wa. - Washington state troopers got a call about a drunken driver -- from the driver herself.

The Washington State Patrol says a 19-year-old called 911 to say she was loaded and needed a lift. The young woman told the emergency dispatcher she had pulled over to the side of a highway. The caller reported she had been given booze at a party without her knowledge. A responding trooper took the young woman to a hospital for detox treatment. She was also arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Georgia man catches 103 pound catfish

United Press International

WARNER ROBINS, Ga. - A Georgia man said he reeled in a 103-pound flathead catfish from the Ocmulgee River, where the species of fish is non-native.

Tom Head, 76, said the fish he caught near Warner Robins this week measured more than 57 inches long and was more than 41 inches in girth, WSBTV, Atlanta, reported Thursday.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division said Head's fish was larger than the current state record by 20 pounds, but is not eligible because

the angler was using a technique known as "jug fishing," and a jug line is not considered sport tackle by state authorities. The department said flathead catfish are not native to the Ocmulgee River.

Deadbeat dad faces trial in Texas

United Press International

AUSTIN, Tex.-A Texas man accused of owing more than \$760,000 in child support pleaded guilty to leaving the country to avoid paying taxes.

Tom Lee Neal, 43, pleaded guilty to traveling abroad to avoid paying child support and could face up to two years in federal prison at his sentencing by U.S. Judge Xavier Rodriguez, the San Antonio Express News Reported. Neal was once a professional baseball player with the Oakland Athletics and Japan's Orix BlueWave

Man wins \$96,000 while on trial for embezzling

Associated Press

GIRARD, Kan.-- A former Kansas radio executive who admitted that he embezzled to support an addiction to scratch-off lottery tickets won a \$96,000 lottery prize.

Prosecutors say the prize money will go toward paying restitution to Paul W. Lyle's former employer, American Media Investments.

Lyle pleaded guilty Thursday to felony theft for embezzling an estimated \$88,000 from American Media.

It was during his preliminary hearing Sept. 21 that Lyle was notified he had won a prize in a second-chance lottery drawing. The prize includes a boat, cash and tickets to a NASCAR race at a Kansas Speedway.

Lyle will be sentenced Nov. 30.

His conviction carries a sentencing range of five to 17 months in jail or prison. But prosecutors say Lyle likely will get probation because he has no previous Felony convictions.



THE North Star

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1st Cavalry Division
2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,
1st Cavalry Division

3rd Stryker Brigade,
2nd Infantry Division
130th Engineer Brigade

25th Combat Aviation Brigade,
25th Infantry Division
4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team,
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