

# The North Star

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



Volume 1, Issue 77

May 3, 2010

## 3rd ID completes re-up mission

By Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Halford  
TF Marne Retention Operations

The 3rd Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Stewart, Ga., completed its fiscal year 2010 active component retention mission in less than seven months. This is a phenomenal act considering that the division is currently spread across four countries, and two combat theaters, according to the 3rd ID Retention Office.

"This is a momentous achievement, accomplished by a great command and retention team, especially considering the complexity of the operating environment and the overall tempo of the division," said Sgt. Maj. Luis Rivera, the 3rd Infantry Division command career counselor.

This is the 3rd ID's fourth deployment to Iraq since 2003, but the high operational tempo did not stop more than 3,500 Soldiers from re-enlisting. Even more troops will follow their lead as the Army nears its retention goal as well.

The division's re-enlistment success comes despite changes in the Army's program, which have resulted in a 66 percent reduction in average bonus payments, and a very challenging deployed environment where only one brigade is within the divisions' direct operational control.

The 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade led the charge to mission completion this year, as they were the first to accomplish mission.

"Soldiers in my unit re-enlisted because they and their Families were

Soldiers in my unit re-enlisted because they and their Families were constantly engaged by a retention team and command, which worked diligently to meet each Soldier's needs and desires.

*-Master Sergeant Michael Giesen, senior career counselor, 3rd CAB*

constantly engaged by a retention team and command, which worked diligently to meet each Soldier's needs and desires. The great command climate is reflected in our high stabilization rate," said Master Sgt. Michael Giesen, the 3rd CAB senior career counselor.

The 3rd ID, which is currently the headquarters for United States Division – North, near Tikrit, arrived in theater to close out the combat mission and to facilitate the transition to advise and assist brigades in northern Iraq as responsibility for security shifts to Iraqi forces.

"This deployment Soldiers have shown great perseverance as they continue to work closely with Iraqi Security Forces and tribal leaders to stabilize the economy and make life better for Iraq's citizens," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, TF Marne and 3rd ID command sergeant major.

"One of the reasons Soldiers are able to focus on helping the people of Iraq is because of the terrific support system that they have in their Families and friends back home," Command Sgt. Maj. Andrews said. "The continual flow of letters, e-mails, and care packages from both loved ones

and strangers continues to strengthen Soldiers' resolve and lift their morale.

Each Soldier re-enlists for a different reason, but for one Eureka, Calif., native, it was about the opportunities military service provides.

Sergeant Megan Nater, an intelligence analyst in the division headquarters, considered leaving active duty until assistance from the retention team enabled her to accomplish a personal dream.

"Re-enlisting for a duty assignment in Italy allowed me to do something I otherwise wouldn't have been able to do on my own," said Sgt. Nater. "People don't understand what a benefit it is to be able to live in a different country for three years and have that kind of experience without worrying about what it costs or where to live."

The 3rd ID retention team constantly strives to be the premiere Army unit when it comes to assisting Soldiers with their careers.

Nothing less is acceptable because the legacy of this great division continues to be its incredible Soldiers and their Families.

**May is Asian/Pacific  
Heritage month**



# Partners against crime

*Army, ISF mission yields good news for peace*

By Pfc. Adrian Muehe  
3SBCT, 2nd Inf Div PAO

The small village of Chubiernot, Iraq, northwest of the city of Baqubah, was dead calm in the early hours of the morning.

Just after 5 a.m., the sun came up, breathing life back into the community with the sounds of animals waking up to greet the morning light. The lone bridge connecting the village to the outside world was desolate, as the residents of the town were still resting comfortably in their beds, but not for long.

Just after the first rays of sunlight dispersed the darkness, Stryker vehicles, police trucks and Iraqi Army High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicles arrived at this quaint scene. Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, along with IA soldiers from 1st Battalion, 18th IA Brigade and Iraqi Police from the 9th Emergency Reaction Force choked off the village's only access point as they searched for weapons caches and people of interest, April 28.

"We had several different sources



See MISSION, Page 3 —



Photos by Pfc. Adrian Muehe, 3SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. PAO

**Above:** Specialist Brandon Hancock, of Florence, Ala., and a scout with HHC, 5/20th Inf., 3rd SBCT, 2nd ID, provides security, while an Iraqi policeman with the 9th ERF watches a road heading in the opposite direction during a clearing operation in Chubiernot, April 18.

**Left:** Specialist Nathan Watts, a native of St. Louis, Mo., and an acting team leader for HHC, 5/20th Inf., 3rd SBCT, 2nd ID, provides security while taking cover behind stacks of concrete blocks during a clearing operation in Chubiernot, April 28.

## Are you going to miss your child's high school graduation?

If your child attends school in Georgia's Liberty or Bryan County School District, and you would like a greeting to play during the ceremony, contact the Task Force Marne PAO at [marcia.triggs@3id.army.mil](mailto:marcia.triggs@3id.army.mil)



## Continued from MISSION, Page 2

tell us that this area was an AQI [Al Qaeda in Iraq] support area,” said Capt. Joel Ellison, commander of HHC, 5/20 Inf. “We had a few locations and a list of names from ISF [Iraqi Security Forces] sources.”

Given maps with specific houses to target in the area, and names of people to speak with, the U.S. forces and ERF police made their way through the city, entering different houses simultaneously as the Iraqi Army maintained security and blocked off all traffic from entering or exiting the village while they conducted the search.

Also joining this combined force were military working dog teams from Forward Operating Base Warhorse and the IP K-9 Unit to sniff out explosives that may be hidden, waiting to eliminate unsuspecting Soldiers or policemen on the mission.

Covering from the air were scout weapons teams in Kiowa helicopters on standby with crew-served weapons.

“We did a similar clearing operation here back in December,” said Capt. Ellison.

“We found a cache of three IEDs [improvised explosive devices] and a few



Photo by Pfc. Adrian Muehe, 3SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div. PAO

**Soldiers from HHC, 5/20th Inf., 3rd SBCT, 2nd ID, line up and provide security along a wall as an Iraqi Army vehicle makes its way down the road during a clearing operation in Chubiernot, April 28. The Iraqi Army secured the perimeter as U.S. forces and IP searched target houses in the village.**

other weapons.”

The mission didn't come away with any huge finds, but a weapon was found hidden in the palm groves and individuals of interest were found living in the village.

“This was a success because if we're not finding much, that means that we are doing our job of keeping weapons out of the area,” said Spc. Brandon Hancock,

a scout with HHC.

The search was over just before 9 a.m. All forces did their part according to plan, allowing the operation to go smoothly.

“The most positive thing was that the IA and IP were working together on their own for this joint operation,” said Capt. Ellison.

With U.S. forces leaving Iraq soon it will be up to ISF to conduct operations.

A relationship between the Army and the police is critical for their success, said Capt. Ellison.

“We have a good relationship with the IPs in this area,” said Maj. Azad, operations commander for 1-18 IA Bde.

“I have been working with the [9th] ERF for two years now. I feel that when U.S. forces leave, we will work together.”

### You are invited

#### Run for the Warriors Marathon

Where: COB Speicher Stadium  
When: May 30, registration begins 5 a.m., and ends at 5:35 p.m.  
5K walk begins at 6 a.m.,  
10K run begins at 6:30 a.m.  
To register early, e-mail woundedwarrior10K4hope@yahoo.com  
Early registration is recommended.

#### UFC Tour

Where: FOB Warhorse,  
FOB Gabe/Cruz-Morris  
and Q-West, May 7  
When: May 6, 6:30 p.m.

#### Cinco De Mayo

Where: D-Main, COB Speicher  
When: 7 - 9 p.m.  
Events include a pinata competition,  
nacho-eating contest, Mexican-hat dance,  
and taco creations.

#### TF Marne

##### Volleyball Competition

Where: Freedom Rest, COB Speicher  
When: May 27-28

##### Asian Pacific Heritage Month

Where: D-Main, COB Speicher  
When: May 21, 11:30 a.m.

##### National Day of Prayer

Where: Main Dining Facility,  
COB Speicher  
When: May 6, 12 p.m.



## Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Intelligence Specialist Seaman Byron Havard, of Slidell, La., is with Joint Task Force Troy - North. He has distinguished himself as a counter improvised explosives device intelligence analyst in the area of operations. He is responsible for intelligence production and analysis and his many contributions have had a profound impact. His excellent coordination skills directly improved the integration of intelligence functions, tracking, cataloguing, and analyzing improvised explosive device related events in Kirkuk and Salah ad-Din provinces. He identified enemy bomb-making and emplacing techniques, enabling rapid reporting and mitigation of threats and produced intelligence products that increased Explosive Ordnance Disposal situational awareness on emerging threat practices. His data also contributed to improved training for U.S. and partnered forces. Seaman Havard's exceptional professionalism and selfless devotion reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Navy and make him most deserving of being selected as today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Sergeant Garrett Brink, of Comodore, Pa., is with 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. He exemplifies what a noncommissioned officer is. He applies his training, gives precise commands and keeps his cool in stressful situations. Recently, while Sgt. Brink's platoon was refitting on Joint Base Balad, one of his Soldiers accidentally cut himself in the arm while opening a box. Sergeant Brink immediately identified the wound as serious and life threatening and reacted as the calm and confident leader that he is. Sergeant Brink didn't hesitate and immediately applied manual pressure to the wound, followed by a tourniquet. Simultaneously he gave commands to subordinate Soldiers in the area to prepare for transport to the base's medical care facility. From the time of the accident to when the Soldier was admitted to the emergency room was no more than 10 minutes. The surgeon on duty later reported an artery was nicked and massive blood loss was imminent, had it not been for Sergeant Brink's command of the situation, the Soldier might not be serving with his unit today. For his quick action under pressure, he is most deserving of being today's Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

## Punch out complacency



Photo by Spc. Michael Adams, TF Marne PAO

**Task Force Marne command sergeants major, led by TF Marne and 3rd Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, pose to show Soldiers to keep their dukes up against complacency April 30, at COB Speicher. The command sergeants major were at the TF Marne Commander's Conference, to discuss progress in Iraq.**

# REGIONAL HEADLINES

## County cracks down on 500,000 outstanding parking tickets

Atlanta Journal Constitution

DEKALB COUNTY, Ga. - Thousands of drivers faced the danger of having their licenses suspended if they had not paid their DeKalb County traffic tickets by the end of April.

After years of giving drivers slack on unpaid citations, DeKalb's Recorders Court has accumulated a backlog of 500,000 outstanding tickets.

This week, hundreds of drivers flocked to the courthouse to pay their tickets -- only to find long lines and hours-long waits. The lines are expected to resume next week.

"They can have my money. I just don't want to wait any longer," said Le'Sia Parker, who waited about five hours to pay a speeding ticket from 2005.

Starting on May 3, the court will institute new fees and begin issuing warrants and sending information to the Georgia Department of Driver Services. The state will give drivers another 28 days to pay the ticket and then start suspending licenses, said Susan Sports, spokeswoman for Driver Services.

On April 28, dozens of people crowded onto the benches and stood against the wall; one woman sat on a family member's lap while waiting for the judge to call her name.

"It's an aggressive schedule. It's

going to mean crowds, but we feel confident we can get caught up with the backlog by the end of the year," Withers said.

"There are people who have thousands and thousands of dollars worth of outstanding tickets. That won't happen any more."

## Bulldozer demolishes wrong home

Denton Record-Chronicle

DENTON, Texas - A demolition crew rolled its bulldozer up the wrong side of Ruddell Street last week, leaving Francis Howard with a big hole in the front of her longtime family home.

Howard, 69, lives with her son in Frisco. She said another woman, who was digging irises in the flower beds April 28, tried to stop the crew before the porch and the front of the house came tumbling down.

The crew was supposed to be tearing down 721 Ruddell, the house across the street.

"I don't have the words to say," Howard said.

According to city records, Denton's Construction and Advisory Appeals Board ordered in January that house either be repaired or demolished.

In the past six years, city code enforcement officers have found six violations there, including high grass and weeds, outside storage, junked vehicles and failure to secure the structure.

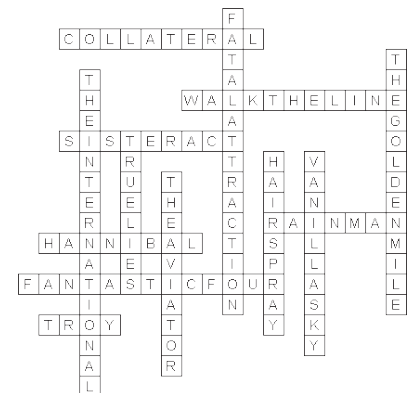
Howard is having trouble figuring out what to do next. According to city records, her home also was in front of the Construction and Advisory Appeals Board on April 15, but she had pledged to repair it by July 15.

Cabrales said the clock is still ticking on that deadline, but she could ask for an extension.

Howard's house number -- 724 -- and a "no trespassing" sign still hung prominently on her half-standing structure April 26. The house was her family's home for 47 years.

"I just want this house put back together," she said, adding, "I think I need a lawyer."

## Answers to Friday's crossword puzzle



## Anti-Kidnapping tip:

Ensure tactical operations command and supervisors know your schedule, to include expected arrival and departure points and times.

## THE North Star

*The North Star* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of *The North Star* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 3rd Infantry Division. All editorial content of *The North Star* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Task Force Marne Public Affairs Office.

## TASK FORCE MARNE

Commanding General - Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo

Command Sergeant Major - Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse L. Andrews Jr.

### Task Force Marne Public Affairs Staff

TF Marne PAO - Maj. Jeff Allen

TF Marne PA NCOIC - Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs

TF Marne Writer- Sgt. Johnathon Jobson

### Editorial Staff

Managing Editor - Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs

Editor- Spc. Michael Adams

4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team,  
1st Infantry Division  
2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team,  
3rd Infantry Division

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

25th Combat Aviation Brigade,  
25th Infantry Division  
130th Engineer Brigade  
135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment