



Lightning Weekly

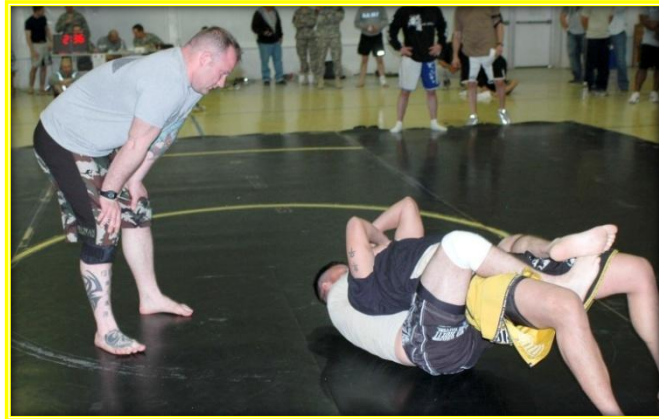
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APR 6, 2009

Tap



Spc. Amber Palmer chokes Sgt. Coury Stevens in a guillotine choke hold, cutting off oxygen to his brain.



Referee Sgt. Patrick Miller looks on as Spc. Raul Goodnight tries to lock in a rear naked choke on Spc. Sherwin Bulaon.

Out!

STORY and PHOTOS BY
Pfc. Jared Sollars
145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, MOSUL, Iraq — With a quick slam and a thud, a combatant in a well lit gym is thrown to the mat then put in a ferocious submission move. That's the heart and soul of any Mixed Martial Arts fight.

Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Department of Defense civilians from both FOBs Marez and Diamondback competed in a Brazilian jiu-jitsu tournament in preparation for an upcoming MMA event in May.

MMA events are unique in the way their bouts are set up; fighters that have trained in various martial arts and other combative techniques go head-to-head. For example, a wrestler will go against someone in his

weight class that is well trained in jiu-jitsu or judo. The variations of skill and style in bouts are enormous.

Marine 1st Lt. Lee Stuckey said the event is a welcomed relief from the day-to-day operations in theater.

"This event was put together as a morale booster to give the Soldiers something to look forward to and participate in," said Stuckey, who refereed the weight classes along with professional MMA fighter, Sgt. Patrick Miller. Both competed in the production and were key coordinators in the event.

The tournament was divided into five amateur weight classes and a professional division. The first-place winners in each weight class were presented with a medal, a K-Bar knife, a \$50 gift card and a certificate of participation by Col. Gary Volesky,

commander of 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Events like this are positive outlets for Soldiers to put their focus toward self-improvement, making them stronger both physically and mentally, Stuckey said.

"MMA is a good way for people to physically cope with post traumatic stress disorder," Stuckey stated. "I was diagnosed with PTSD in 2003, and as long as I'm training, I don't have the panic attacks or any other PTSD symptoms. I think it's a better solution than just medicating people."

Over the past few years MMA has become a phenomenon that has swept across the world bringing the best-of-the-best to challenge one another, pushing their skills to the limits, said Stuckey, who is also a professional MMA fighter in the United States.

Soldiers Sort Half a Million School Books for Iraqi Children

STORY and PHOTO BY

Spc. Jazz Burney

3rd IBC, 25th ID Public Affairs Office

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq – Do you remember coming to class, sitting at the desk with your name written on it, and listening to the teacher as she told you to take out your new school book? Do you remember the excitement of opening the book and turning the pages with eagerness to begin learning?

Soldiers of 325th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division helped bring that excitement to Iraq as they packaged and prepared the first shipment of more than 600,000 "My Arabic Library" by Scholastic books to be delivered to Iraqi schools throughout the Salah ad-Din province, in a combined effort to introduce and establish better learning environments and library systems for Iraqi children, March 28.

"Giving children something that they can actually sit, read and hold gives them hope for their future. I think that giving the children of Iraq hope is an important focus for coalition forces due to the lack of hope that is prevalent in this area," said Sgt. Suzanne Sippel, Provincial Reconstruction Team member, 425th Civil Affairs Battalion.

"I have three children of my own and I know that there were influential people in their lives who made a significant impact on them—I know that their children will be the ones making the decisions for the United States, and the Iraqi children who will receive these supplies will eventually be the ones making the decisions for all of Iraq 25 years down the road," she added.

The distribution project started in April 2008, following an initiative from the government of Iraq and the U.S. State Department. Iraqi officials spotted the need to start library programs within the schools for Iraqi children to use.

Iraqi officials and the PRT calculated the number of schools that would receive the books. They ordered 560 sets for Salah ad-Din province, according to Capt. Miguel Benzor-Anaya, health service support officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company,

325th Bde. Support Bn., 3rd Inf. Bde. Combat Team, 25th Inf. Div.

The BSB Soldiers sorted the books, which arrived in seven full tractor-trailer loads, into smaller packages destined for each of the qadas, or districts, in the province, said Benzor-Anaya.

"An additional purpose for establishing a library system within the Iraqi schools is to identify those schools that have an interest in teaching the English language – this will also lead to starting a Pen Pal program with children of the United States and establish more awareness for the situation here in Iraq," he said. In addition to the pen pal program and schoolbook delivery, the PRT is also working on an overall education initiative that includes building and refurbishing public libraries and creating schools of excellence.

Each set of books contain 12 boxes, which are grade specific and are color coordinated to make organizing and distributing the materials easier. One set of books will cover an elementary school.

PRT members sought and attained the approval of the Iraqi government through the Ministry of Education to begin ordering mass numbers of Scholastic books after they saw the positive impact of providing Iraqi children the additional materials needed for their education.

The orders for the books were placed in Dec. 2008 and now the shipments have arrived and are ready to be distributed, according to Sippel.

"If these children will remember the school supplies and other initiatives that we have provided, it will start a positive ripple effect – that by doing one thing for these children, whether it be providing a book, shoes or a pencil, that one thing could eventually be the action that makes a difference in the world," said Sippel.

A teacher training program to used enhance Iraqi teachers' abilities to instruct their students will become a part of the initiative to be established by combined efforts from coalition forces and the Iraqi government, according to Sippel.



Pvt. Temira Dunn, supply specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 325th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Inf. Bde. Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, places a box of books into a pallet March 28.

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Reenlistment to Remember; 25th Infantry Division Soldier Reenlists on Battlefield



Spc. Patrick Horton, 23, of Manhattan Beach, Calif., recites the oath-of-office with Brig. Gen. Robert Brown, 49, of Hawaii, during his reenlistment ceremony in Dohuk, Iraq, on March 21.



Brig. Gen. Robert Brown shakes hands with Spc. Patrick Horton to congratulate him on his reenlistment to the Army. Horton reenlisted for six more years of service to the Army.

STORY and PHOTOS BY
Spc. Daniel Nelson
145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DAHUK, Iraq — The vivid red, white and blue colors of the American flag were proudly displayed during a reenlistment ceremony for a Soldier from the 25th Infantry Division March 21.

Spc. Patrick Horton, 23, of Manhattan Beach, Calif., raised his right hand and took the oath-of-office with Brig. Gen. Robert Brown, 49, of Hawaii, administering it while in Dohuk for the Newroz celebration.

Horton, who is the acting intelligence non-commissioned officer-in-charge for Command Post-North, 25th Infantry Division and Task Force Lightning, was nearing the end of his first contract of four years while in Iraq. He re-enlisted for six more years of service to the Army.

The ceremony was conducted with the American flag hastily hung in front of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, with an audience including members of the Kurdish regional government and Soldiers from the CP-North team.

Brig. Gen. Brown, the Multi-National Division-North Deputy Commanding General (Support), spoke about the honor of being able to do the ceremony for such a "top-notch" individual such as Horton.

"It's an unbelievable privilege, being a general officer, to be able to do promotions and re-enlistment for Soldiers," said Brown. "It's one of the best things you get to do."

Horton had the pleasure of addressing the group after reciting the oath and receiving his certificate of reenlistment. He spoke with references to being proud to

serve in the Army and how he's getting to see the work he has done during his previous deployment.

"I want to stay in until they kick me out of the Army," added Horton to the Soldiers from the CP-North team and members of the KRG during his reenlistment.

Thereafter, people from the audience lined up and shook hands with Horton to

congratulate him on his reenlistment. "You always hear stories of people having great reenlistments when they're deployed," Horton added following his ceremony. "It made it that much sweeter to have Brig. Gen. Brown reenlisting me into the 25th. That was probably the most impressive thing I've had my whole career to this moment."



Spc. Patrick Horton, 23, of Manhattan Beach, Calif., recites the oath-of-office with Brig. Gen. Robert Brown, 49, of Hawaii, during his reenlistment ceremony in Dohuk, Iraq, on March 21. Horton's reenlistment was held in front of members of the 25th Infantry Division and members of the Kurdish Democratic Party.

This Week In TROPIC LIGHTNING History

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

APRIL 7, 1969 – CU CHI, VIETNAM – BoShank, a three year old charcoal black mixed terrier, has seen two and one-half years of combat service in South Vietnam.

BoShank's home is with Bravo Troop, 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry. The dog knows no other life except that of combat trooper. Ever since he was a pup the blasts of main guns and automatic weapons have rung in his ears. He has grown to be the most respected pet the field troopers have.

"BoShank has witnessed more firefights than any man in Bravo Troop," explained Specialist 4 David Nelson, Lafayette, Ind., BoShank's master.

Nelson also comments, "O! faithful BoShank has warned the cavalymen on several occasions of enemy movement during the night. I guess he knows the smell of an AK-47 or something. He'll give a sharp howl and at the same time turn his ears straight back. During ground operations he seems to smell out Charlie. He walks the jungles with the rest of the men and screens out all dangers. Sometimes he will peer into tunnel complexes just to see what is inside."

Scout dogs in Vietnam are very helpful to infantry units. The dogs are trained to sniff out Charlie, his booby traps and routes of

travel.

Even though BoShank has had no classes in scouting, what German Shepherd could be trained to pull guard up in the tank commander's cupola? A truly combat-minded animal, BoShank will place himself behind the huge 50 caliber machine gun and sit there calmly watching for any movement to his front. For this reason BoShank was awarded the honorary rank of staff sergeant.

"BoShank is a career soldier, with his stomach in and his chest out," comments Nelson. "Two and one-half years in the field, participating in every cavalry battle, is a long time for any trooper. Sergeant BoShank has seen plenty of action and we feel he deserves a break."

At present, the old hound has a desk job back in Cu Chi base camp.

To stay in good health, Sergeant BoShank rises bright and early. He is present at all formations. During the evening police call BoShank leads his men through the troop area. Every so often BoShank will visit the bunker guards just to make sure everyone is alert.

When the enemy attacked Cu Chi's eastern perimeter, BoShank made great efforts to ward off the attackers. Low crawling from bunker to bunker, BoShank

made his rounds to reassure the men that everything was okay. In one incident during the battle, BoShank crouched in readiness on top of one of the bunkers. He sat there ready to pounce on anything that came near him.

Sergeant BoShank, serial number K9-007, is truly an animal with great pride and is, by all means, the best mascot the cavalymen could have.



LOOKIN' FOR CHARLIE – Staff Sgt. BoShank, a 3-4 CAV Trooper, mans a "ma duece" in one of the observation posts at Cu Chi base camp. Ever alert and vigilant, Sgt. BoShank ensures the safety of all those who live inside the wire.

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

APRIL 6, 1970 – LAI THIEU, VIETNAM – Soldiers from the 25th Administration Company have "adopted" the more than 600 deaf and mute Vietnamese children who live and learn at a Catholic home near here.

The men make a trip to the home every two weeks to deliver clothing and visit with the children who are between four and sixteen years old.

The first visit was at Christmas time. Soon after, Specialist Five Eric Meine, who works in the division enlisted records office wrote to his parents asking them to gather clothing for the Vietnamese children.

Meine's family, along with a boys club in Locust Valley, N.Y., got to work gathering clothing and money that was used to ship what they collected. During one recent visit the men from admin company delivered 160 pounds of clothing to the home.

The children welcomed the soldiers by giving them Vietnamese beer, soft drinks, peanuts and water melon.

"They have lots of questions," Lieutenant Jerry Retzlloff of Three Rivers, Tex., an admin company officer, said. "They write their questions on slips of paper and the G.I.s write answers and add questions of their own. Their English is very good - better than a lot of G.I.'s," Retzlloff said.

Retzlloff and many of the other men in admin company have written home for more

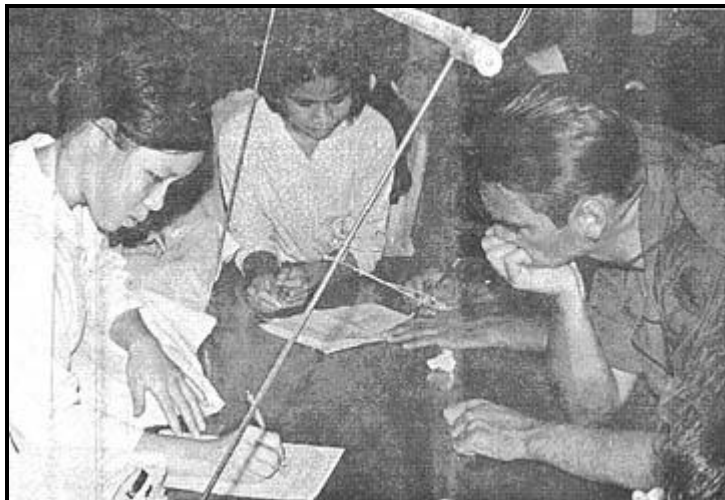
clothing for the children. Major Charles Stiles, admin company commander, said he would like to start a fund raising drive in admin company. The money would be used to buy materials so the Vietnamese could do some new building at the school.

"Believe me, that's the way to do it, Stiles, a former MACV adviser, said. "We couldn't build anything the way they wanted it and we

couldn't do as good a job," he said.

Meanwhile, the twice-a-month visits continue.

"Our men spend most of their time working in the division staff sections," one officer said. "They like to get out to the villages and meet the people. They enjoy going to Lai Thieu as much as the children enjoy having them visit."



A QUIET CONVERSATION – Soldiers from the 25th Administration Company exchange notes with children they have "adopted" at a Catholic home 25 miles from Cu Chi base camp. The more than 600 children at the home are deaf.

NEWS FROM THE HOME FRONT

HAWAII

KANEOHE – About 150 Marines and sailors with the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment left from Hickam Air Force Base this morning en route to al Asad air base in Iraq where they will serve a seven-month deployment.

Their families bid them goodbye at the Marine Corps Base Hawai'i at Kane'ohe Bay.

There has been speculation that this could be the last deployment of Hawai'i based troops to Iraq as the United States turns its focus to the war in Afghanistan.

Marine Capt. Jaisun Hanson said goodbye to his wife Amie, their 2-year-old son, David, and daughter, Mandolyn, 6. Mandolyn wore a T-shirt that said she was a Marine daughter, one of the brave and the few.

Hanson said of the mission: "I have a good feeling about it."

He said his troops would be doing mostly "local security patrols when they are in country."

Hanson said he had heard talk that Iraq missions would be winding down, but that he couldn't confirm anything.

He will be on his second tour to Iraq.

ALASKA

FAIRBANKS – There's no need to go nuts about buying pistachios that might be contaminated with salmonella.

While some of the Setton Farms brand roasted, salted, shelled pistachios are believed to have made it to Alaska store shelves, large retailers in Fairbanks already have pulled the product.

Wal-Mart pulled the pistachios Wednesday upon hearing they might be contaminated with the bacteria that is particularly dangerous for young children and the elderly. Specifically targeted are 9-ounce bags of Setton Farms pistachios with a "best before date" between Jan. 6, 2010, and Jan. 19, 2010.

The FDA has called for a voluntary recall, but some stores such as Wal-Mart have taken all pistachios off their shelves while the FDA conducts an investigation.

"We're encouraging customers to either throw them away or return them for a refund," Fairbanks Wal-Mart manager Timbo Erickson said.

Fred Meyer has pulled affected pistachios from the shelves of Alaska locations as well. Not removed, however, are pistachios not believed to be contaminated with salmonella, Fred Meyer spokeswoman Melinda Merrill said.

People infected with salmonella often suffer from fever, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. Rarely, the disease can cause serious infections. Since the recall, no cases of infection have been attributed to pistachios.

Products that contain pistachios, such as ice cream, also might be affected by the tainted nuts, though the FDA is still investigating how far they have spread.

Ron Klein, program manger of the state's Department of Environmental Conservation, said pistachio lovers should avoid eating such products in the meantime.

"If consumers have pistachios or pistachio products in their pantry, just hold them until the investigation is complete and the FDA has issued their recommendation," he said.

NEW YORK

POTSDAM – The Discovery Channel show "Mythbusters" came to Clarkson University on Saturday, and it was a dream fulfilled for every engineer-in-training in the audience.

Jokes about things like "rotational inertia" were flying in the first five minutes.

The show's Grant M. Imahara, 38, is famous for doing crazy stunts such as swimming with sharks and blowing things up to prove or disprove urban legends. Spectrum, a club that plans a diverse array of events from fashion shows to guest speakers, worked for nine months to get Mr. Imahara to campus for Accepted Applicants weekend.

"We thought about what would be really fun entertainment, and obviously Clarkson is a huge engineering school," said sophomore Nikolas R. Lyons, president of Spectrum. "Grant was in the list of five or 10 and everybody knew him and liked him on the show."

Mr. Imahara did not bust any myths at Clarkson, but he told the crowd of nearly 1,000 people, which consisted mostly of engineering students, of his career as an animatronics engineer. In his years of working for George Lucas's Industrial Light & Magic, he worked on R2-D2, the Energizer Bunny and movies such as "Jurassic Park: The Lost World" and two of the "Matrix" films, to name a few.

When he was first approached about doing the "Mythbusters" show, Mr. Imahara said he would never do the crazy stunts that he does now on a regular basis. After the show's first year, however, he changed his mind.

"I think I've realized it's actually part of the fun, not really knowing what's going to happen to you this week until this week happens," he said, like trying to find cures for hot chillies or jumping out of planes. "Now I say, 'When are we going to do that?'"

Incidentally, the same company that insures the MTV show "Jackass" insures the "Mythbusters," who conduct some of their experiments in a fortified storage container they call "the bunker."

The crazy things that the show does often are the beginning of lesson plans; middle

and high school science teachers e-mail the show's cast to say that they use the show to introduce science in a cool way to their students.

"We take the science and disguise it with things that blow up," Mr. Imahara said. "In reality, at the core of the show the science is there. There's something about that combination of making science fun that is part of our show."

TEXAS

KILLEEN – More than 530 registered volunteers from groups as diverse as the Extreme Science Club of Bellaire Elementary to the local chapter of the NAACP showed up at 8 a.m. on a cold and windy Saturday morning to pick up other people's trash.

The annual meeting was Killeen's participation in the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off.

Volunteers picked up litter Saturday throughout the state as part of the Trash-Off, the largest one-day statewide cleanup event in the U.S. It is an event jointly organized by the Texas Department of Transportation and Keep Texas Beautiful to keep communities, parks and roadways clean. Last year, 57,000 Texas volunteers collected more than 5 million pounds of litter. Killeen has participated since the inception of Keep Killeen Beautiful in 1992.

"When you pick up litter, it makes others want to keep it clean. That first piece of paper on the ground gives others permission to litter," said Robin DeHart, the director of Keep Killeen Beautiful.

After being thanked by Mayor Timothy Hancock and posing for a group photo, the volunteers, representing at least 46 groups, dispersed to bridges and roadsides across the city, from Avenue A downtown to Zephyr Road. The volunteers cleaned a total of 88.9 miles.

Craig Good, co-chair of Keep Killeen Beautiful, got involved with the organization five years ago when it started a program policing illegal dumping. He likes the Trash-Off because of the impact it has on the city and the community involvement. These kinds of events give a sense of unity to Killeen, he said.

"This is a real cross-section of the city," said Wilfred Brewster, director of Volunteer Services in Killeen. Their common goal, he said, is to keep the city safe and beautiful.

The volunteers met again at 11:30 a.m. for an award picnic where the volunteers were fed and recognized for their contributions with certificates. Some were presented with silly awards, like "Most Unusual Item Found."

Brewster said 34 groups have committed to a two-year contract, which requires them to volunteer at least four times a year.

LIGHTNING HERO OF THE WEEK

PV2 Marcel Stevens
A BTRY, TF 2-82 FA, 3 HBCT, 25 ID
San Diego, CA

During a joint patrol in hay Al Zahraa, Rock 39's patrol was engaged with a HME hand grenade that struck the convoy, but bounced off the MRAP and landed in the middle of Zahraa Market and detonating, wounding two local nationals. The patrol stopped and dismounted, with PV2 Stevens rushing to the aid of one of the LNs. While treating the LN the patrol began taking small arms fire, and with complete disregard for his own safety, PV2 Stevens began treating the second LN. PV2 Stevens' skills and courage on the battlefield made the difference that day and he sets the standards for all combat medics to achieve.

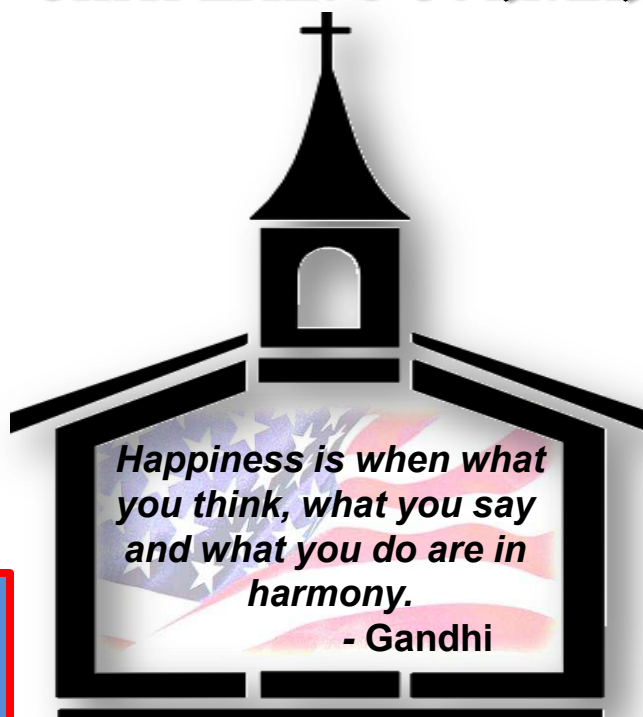


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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Happiness is when what you think, what you say and what you do are in harmony.

- Gandhi



SPORTING NEWS

At Least 20 Feared Dead in Pakistan Mosque Blast

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan – A suicide bombing at a mosque in Pakistan has killed at least 20 people, according to local police.

The attack occurred about 12:30 p.m. Sunday local time while the worshippers were attending an annual event at the mosque in Punjab province. The bomber detonated his explosives at the front gate of the mosque, police say.

Punjab province has seen a spike in sectarian violence in recent months, including attacks on Shia funeral processions. Checkpoints along NATO supply lines going through the area have also come under attack.

Sri Lankan cricket players were attacked in March on the way to a match against Pakistan in Lahore. Last week, militants attacked a police training academy on the outskirts of Lahore.

Last Tamil Rebel Stronghold Captured

SRI LANKA – After three days of gun battles, the Sri Lankan military said it has captured the last stronghold of the Tamil Tiger rebels and killed five rebel leaders.

"Soldiers of 53 and 58 divisions and TF-VIII captured entire Puthukkudiyiruppu area, the last base station of the LTTE terrorists this morning," the military said in a statement posted on its Web site Sunday.

A "couple of hundred" rebels could be "hiding" in a 20-square-kilometer area designated as the "safety zone," military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara told CNN.

There will be no military offensive in that area, he said, as it has a civilian population of about 50,000 people.

Five rebel leaders were killed, the statement said, and a sixth was critically injured. More than 250 dead bodies of rebels were recovered, bringing the total number of bodies recovered during the last three days up to 420, the military said. Weapons were also recovered, according to the statement.

At least 110 rebels have surrendered to the military, army sources told CNN.

There was no immediate reaction from the Tamil Tiger rebels.

The organization has fought since 1983 for an independent homeland for the country's ethnic Tamil minority. The civil war has left more than 70,000 people dead.

North Carolina Seniors One Win From Making History

DETROIT – With one more victory, North Carolina's seniors can make history.

And it is not just winning the national title. Tyler Hansbrough, Danny Green and Bobby Frasier have a chance to become North Carolina's all-time winningest four-year class after they tied Quinton Thomas (2005-08), who was part of 123 wins during his time in Chapel Hill.

Green was asked Friday if 124 wins holds any special meaning: "It means a lot, definitely. There's not a lot of people on that list.

"But what we want is a national championship. We want the ring. The hardware."

As for coach Roy Williams, this class is the one he will remember the most. The group came to Chapel Hill the year after North Carolina won its last national title in 2005.

"After Sean (May) and Raymond (Felton) and Rashad (McCants) and Marvin (Williams) all left, this year's senior class was the nucleus, even though they were freshmen," Williams said.

Four years later, that group can do something no other Carolina class has done.

For now, however, the players' concentration isn't on setting records but rather bringing home another championship.

In typical Hansbrough fashion, he said, "I want to stay focused on this game and try to do my part on this team to help us win."

Green feels likewise.

"Hopefully we can end it the right way," Green said.

UNC's Williams reacting to Michigan State being portrayed as the underdog despite being ranked in the top 10 in all of the preseason polls, "I mean they're not exactly Charlie's doughnut team."

Watch for how UNC's Wayne Ellington shoots tonight. That could signal how the game will go. Ellington has hit 54.7% of his shots in his last nine games. For his career, when Ellington makes at least half his shots, UNC is 48-0.

Weather.com predicts 3 to 6 inches of snow in Detroit today, the first time in memory measurable snow has hit a Final Four city.

Dealing with health problems and facing an NCAA investigation into a possible recruiting violation, Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun, 66, has been asked frequently about his future in the last week.

After Saturday's semifinal loss to Michigan State, Calhoun said, "I don't plan to go anywhere. But I'm going to give a lot of reflection, maybe more reflection than normal."

Calhoun also tried to end a flap over what he called an NCAA "gag order" Friday to prevent him from talking about the investigation. The NCAA's Bob Williams says Calhoun was not given such an order. Calhoun then told reporters Saturday night, "Would you please not take everything I say literally, please? I'm trying to do the best I can."

NM Boxer Going to Hollywood for Rehab

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Five-time world champion boxer Johnny Tapia has a busy schedule, including a nine-day stint in jail and a trip to Hollywood for drug rehab.

Tapia was sentenced Wednesday for violating probation on felony drug charges. As part of his punishment, he will get a break between his jail sentence and six months of intensive rehab at a facility in southern New Mexico to appear on VH1's reality show "Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew."

Tapia, who has a history of cocaine use and run-ins with the law, could have gone to jail for up to a year for violating his probation.

"They're taking me to prison. I did the crime, I'll do the time," Tapia said.

Tapia, 43, was sentenced to probation in April 2008 after pleading guilty to charges stemming from a near-fatal cocaine overdose. His probation officer was tipped earlier this year that the boxer was using cocaine, and Tapia admitted to the offense.

Tapia is scheduled to take part in "Celebrity Rehab" in May. His lawyer would not say how much Tapia will make for his appearance on the show.

District Attorney Kari Brandenburg said she doesn't have a problem with Tapia's sentence.

"We are certainly not gonna stand in his way of getting treatment that he wants," she said.



TASK FORCE LIGHTNING - THROUGH THE LENS



Staff Sgt. (P) Olene Togialua, 41, of Aasu Fou, America Samoa, rehearses some moves during his Asian Pacific dance class March 31. Togialua and the rest of the Asian Pacific dance group meet three times a week and practice a variety of traditional dances from the Asian Pacific area.



Incoming commander Capt. Dervan H. Taafe-McMenamy (left), stands and recites the Stryker Creed with Brigade Troops Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Brian D. Slack and outgoing commander Capt. Ryan M. DeBonis during the 184th Military Intelligence Company's change of command ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, April 1.



Staff Sgt. (P) Eddie Fonoti, NCOIC of the CP-North PSD, flashes a "double shaka" while providing security during a Key Leader Engagement with BG Brown and members of the CP-North team at Sheik Abdullah's home, north of Mosul, on April 1.

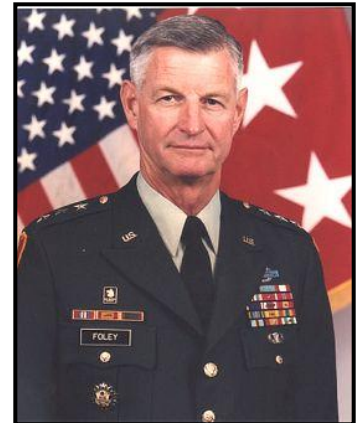


Pfc. Dennis Morey from Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, uploads a fingerprint scan to a database that Iraqi security forces will use to track individuals who were previously wanted for committing crimes. The fingerprint scans were used in conjunction with retinal scans at a reconciliation event hosted by the Iraqi army at Forward Operating Base Bernstein March 31.

HEROES OF THE 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION



- Capt. Robert F. Foley
- Co. A, 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division
- Born: 30 May 1941, Newton, MA
- Entered Service: West Point, NY, 1959
- Place of Action: Near Quan Dau Tieng, South Vietnam
- Date of Action: 5 November 1966



Robert F. Foley

Medal of Honor Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Capt. Foley's company was ordered to extricate another company of the battalion. Moving through the dense jungle to aid the besieged unit, Company A encountered a strong enemy force occupying well concealed, defensive positions, and the company's leading element quickly sustained several casualties. Capt. Foley immediately ran forward to the scene of the most intense action to direct the company's efforts. Deploying 1 platoon on the flank, he led the other 2 platoons in an attack on the enemy in the face of intense fire. During this action both radio operators accompanying him were wounded. At grave risk to himself he defied the enemy's murderous fire, and helped the wounded operators to a position where they could receive medical care. As he moved forward again 1 of his machine gun crews was wounded. Seizing the weapon, he charged forward firing the machine gun, shouting orders and rallying his men, thus maintaining the momentum of the attack. Under increasingly heavy enemy fire he ordered his assistant to take cover and, alone, Capt. Foley continued to advance firing the machine gun until the wounded had been evacuated and the attack in this area could be resumed. When movement on the other flank was halted by the enemy's fanatical defense, Capt. Foley moved to personally direct this critical phase of the battle. Leading the renewed effort he was blown off his feet and wounded by an enemy grenade. Despite his painful wounds he refused medical aid and persevered in the forefront of the attack on the enemy redoubt. He led the assault on several enemy gun emplacements and, single-handedly, destroyed 3 such positions. His outstanding personal leadership under intense enemy fire during the fierce battle which lasted for several hours, inspired his men to heroic efforts and was instrumental in the ultimate success of the operation. Capt. Foley's magnificent courage, selfless concern for his men and professional skill reflect the utmost credit upon himself and the U.S. Army.

Tropic Lightning!