



SPORTS & RECREATION

FEBRUARY 11, 2010

Super Bowl a taste of home for TF Marne



Sgt. Chad D. Nelson
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CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Throughout Task Force Marne, servicemembers and civilians gathered at a central location or woke from a restful sleep and turned on their TVs at 2 a.m. to watch the Super Bowl with millions of other Americans, Feb. 8.

On Contingency Operating Base Speicher, the night began at 11:30 p.m., Feb. 7, at the main dining facility where Soldiers were greeted by upbeat tunes from the 3rd Infantry Band. Inside bustled with Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and civilians talking and laughing over traditional Super Bowl foods such as hot wings and pizza.

“We’re here with our best buddies, and we’re going to watch the Super Bowl together,” said Lt. Col. Donna Martin, the Task Force Marne Inspector General, 3rd Infantry Division.

The Soldiers participated in an accuracy throw contest in support of their favorite team. The most footballs thrown through a small target in 30 seconds yielded the opportunity to defeat the opposing team on a dry-erase board.

A Madden Football tournament on Playstation 3 began earlier in the day lasted through the night.

Twenty-three Soldiers battled on the virtual gridiron. Awards included bragging rights, prizes and prime Super Bowl seating on a leather couch five feet in front of a big screen television.

Prior to the game Houston Texans cheerleaders performed their sideline routines, signed autographs and posed for pictures.

The game capped off a week of pre-game activities and provided a much-needed break from the rigors of a desert deployment.

Kicking off the morale-boosting week was a punt, pass and accuracy throw contest in which nearly 60 servicemembers participated. In place of shoulder pads and football helmets, servicemembers donned their individual body armor and advanced combat helmet to provide an authentic football experience. Many participants enjoyed the contest, feeling it brought a little bit of home to Iraq.

“It’s like I’m in my backyard playing catch with my kids,” said Sgt. Maj. Lucian Sweetenberg, the Task Force Marne G4 sergeant major, 3rd ID and overall winner of the event.

While on a desert deployment, it can be difficult for servicemembers to maintain morale. To ensure morale remains high, the coordinators of the week’s events strived to make things as fun as possible.

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Sgt. Chad D. Nelson

United States Navy Lt. Allen Linken, a detention operations attorney with the Staff Judge Advocate, punts a football during a punt, pass and accuracy throw competition on COB Speicher, Feb. 6. The competition was part of a week-long series of events building up to the Super Bowl.

3ID Soldier wins OIF Great Aloha run

Staff Sergeant Roderick Reeves, DSTB, 3rd ID, wins Hawaii-based units' version of 25-year-old race

Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – The Aloha spirit was on display as the Soldiers of Task Force Wings, joined by other members of TF Marne, participated in the Operation Iraqi Freedom Great Aloha Run in two United States Division-North locations, Feb. 1.

Nearly 1,100 people, led by members of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, simulated the 25-year-old race on Contingency Operating Base Speicher and Forward Operating Base Warrior. The Hawaii-based units showed their Aloha spirit conducting a four-mile formation run, known as the “Sounds of Freedom.” Individual runners had the option to stay the course a little longer and complete 8.15 miles.

The extremely competitive individual races were divided into age groups for males and females, ranging from 18 to 26 through 40 and over. Staff Sergeant Roderick Reeves, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, won the individual race at COB Speicher with a time of 47:26. This was his first time running the race after hearing about it through the

Morale, Welfare and Recreation program.

“I felt great (since I) rested the day before,” Staff Sgt. Reeves said. “The weather was perfect, and my leadership allowed me time to prepare. I’ve never been to Hawaii, but I look forward to visiting when I do the Ironman for my 40th birthday.”

Sergeant First Class Silkia Ramos, 724th Transportation Company, 264th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, won the overall female category with a time of 60:10.

“This is the first time I’ve ever [done] the Great Aloha Run,” Sgt. 1st Class Ramos said. “I felt great until about mile six. From that point on, it was a bit painful, but I finished. I’ve been battling a sore right hamstring (from an injury in a previous deployment).”

The troopers of 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, TF Lightning Horse, completed the 8.15-mile run in formation, duplicating the run from the Aloha Towers to Aloha Stadium on the island of Oahu. More than 100 Soldiers participated in their Sounds of Freedom run, completing the run in 60:17.

The individual race in Kirkuk included 97 additional runners with Staff Sgt. Lawrence Smith from Company B, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, winning the overall male category with a time of 52:01. Sergeant Evangeline Begay, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2-6th Cav. Regt., TF Wings, won the overall female category in 1:28:17.

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Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.

Staff Sergeant Roderick Reeves, STB, 3rd ID, runs the 8.15-mile individual run as part of the Operation Iraqi Freedom Great Aloha Run at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, Feb. 1. Staff Sergeant Reeves was the overall winner for the OIF GAR, finishing with a time of 47:26.

USAMU set to host Army Small Arms Championships

Michael Molinaro
USAMU Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. — The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, in conjunction with the Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning, will host the 2010 U.S. Army Small Arms Championships, the ‘All-Army,’ Feb. 20-27. Training and competitions are open to all Soldiers of any rank in the entire Army formation, including West Point and college ROTC cadets, Army Reservists and National Guardsmen.

The All-Army Matches consist of Small Arms Firing Schools, Excellence-in-Competition Matches and special combined-arms combat matches. Champions will be awarded All-Army Trophies and Soldiers can earn EIC Marksmanship Badges, which are permanent-wear Army awards as described in Army Regulation 600-22 and have precedence above the standard qualification badges. The most coveted awards given out are Secretary of the Army Trophy M-1 Garand Rifles.

“The ‘All-Army’ is designed to test the entire depth of a Soldier’s shooting ability,” said Lt. Col. Daniel Hodne, commander, USAMU. “To succeed in the U.S. Army Small-Arms Championships, you must effectively employ the range of individual weapons from pistol, to rifle, and even to sniper rifle. Doing so with precision while under the stress of competition will challenge even the most experienced of shooters.”

Soldiers will compete in separate Cadet, Novice, Open and Pro classes based on their competition experience. Soldiers will fire M-16 or M-4 service rifles at distances between 25-500 yards and M-9 pistols between 7-35 yards. The long-range matches consist of firing the M-21 or M-24 at targets from 800-1,000 yard distances.

There are special category awards and trophies also for High Drill Sergeant, High Novice and high enlisted Soldier, Guard, and Reserve (private to specialist). Cadets enrolled in an Army ROTC program are eligible for \$6,000 worth of scholarship money.

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Stewart-Hunter Intramural Basketball

ROCKY CONFERENCE

SCORES AND LEADING SCORERS

Games Feb. 3

554th EN Co. 37, 24th Finance Co. 28
554th EN Co.
Rivera, 13 points
24th Finance Co.
Greer, 11 points

MEDDAC 30, HQ 92nd EN Bn. 26
MEDDAC
Roderick, 13 points
HQ 92nd EN Bn.
Sykes, 8 points

Games Feb. 4

90th HR Co. 23, 554th EN Co. 16
90th HR Co.
Croft, 6 points
554th EN Co.
McClellan, 5 points

B Co. WTU 43, HQ 92nd EN Bn. 35
B Co. WTU
Crossley, 13 points
HQ 92nd EN Bn.
Bryant, 10 points

Games Feb. 8

HD 385th MP Co. 2, 554th EN Co. 2
(forfeit)

B Co. WTU 57, 92nd CHEM Co. 43
92nd CHEM Co.
Allen, 19 points
B Co. WTU
Crossley, 16 points

MARNE CONFERENCE

SCORES AND LEADING SCORERS

Games Feb. 3

87th CSSB 34, 984th EN Co. 26
87th CSSB
Gregg, 13 points
984th EN Co.
Love, 12 points

87th CSSB 51, 135th QM Co. 43
87th CSSB
Bright, 13 points
135th QM Co.
George, 19 points

Games Feb. 4

FMWR Library 47, 24th ORD Co. 33
FMWR Library
Kyle, 10 points
24th ORD Co.
Gill, 13 points

92nd EN Bn. 36, 984th EN Co. 31
984th EN Co.
Love, 18 points
92nd EN Bn.
McKnight, 9 points

HUNTER CONFERENCE

Games Feb. 1-4

512th QM Co. 50, 224th MI Bn. 20
1/10 ATK 45, USMC 17
110th QM Co. 54, USMC 20
USCG 57, 473rd QM Co. 50
416th TRANS Co. 51, 110th QM Co. 10
473rd QM C Co. 54, Savannah
Corps of Eng 30
473rd QM Co. 52, USMC 48
USCG 72, 512th QM Co. 53

CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Marne Conference

	WON	LOST	PCT
1. 87th CSSB	9	0	1.000
2. 92nd EN Bn.	5	3	.625
3. 984th EN Co.	4	5	.444
4t. 135th MW Co.	3	5	.375
4t. 526th EN Co.	3	5	.375
4t. FMWR Library	3	5	.375
7. HQ 6/8 CAV	1	2	.333
8. 24th ORD Co.	2	6	.250

Rocky Conference

	WON	LOST	PCT
1. B Co. WTU	5	0	1.000
2. MEDDAC	7	1	.875
3. HD 385th MP Co.	6	1	.857
4. 92nd Chem Co.	3	3	.500
5. HQ 92nd EN Co.	3	5	.375
6. 554th EN Co.	2	5	.285
7t. 24th Finance Co.	1	6	.143
7t. 90th HR Co.	1	6	.143

Hunter Army Airfield Conference

	WON	LOST	PCT
1. 1/10 ATK	8	1	.888
2. 473rd QM Co.	10	2	.833
3. USCG	8	2	.800
4. 416th Trans. Co.	6	4	.600
5. 110th QM Co.	5	4	.556
6. 512th QM Co.	5	5	.500
7. Savannah Corps Eng	3	7	.300
8t. USMC	1	7	.125
8t. 10th Trans. Co.	1	7	.125
10. 224th MI Bn.	1	10	.091

ALOHA

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Comfortable temperatures and a mild wind set perfect conditions for a competitive run. Most of the Soldiers and race participants shared a common thread – an enthusiastic love for athletics.

“Enjoy the race and have fun with it,” Sgt. 1st Class Ramos said.

Having to be away from Family and friends dur-

ing deployment, he said it is always nice knowing that events like this are put together to motivate Soldiers and boost morale, especially when the event represents the state in which they are from.

Staff Sergeant Reeves also gave some advice to the participants in Hawaii preparing for the Feb. 15 race.

“Keep running, biking and swimming,” advised Staff Sgt. Reeves. “Stay involved in an active lifestyle. It’s not that hard [especially] in Hawaii, and events like the GAR are a wonderful way to unite with other people who will encourage, support and assist you in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Run to live, live to run.”

Marne Point



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SUPERBOWL

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Photos by Sgt. Chad D. Nelson

LEFT: Chief Warrant Officer Houston Burke, with HHOC, DSTB, 3rd ID, winds up to throw a football during a punt, pass and accuracy throw competition on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, Feb. 6. The competition was part of a week-long series of events building up to the Super Bowl.

ABOVE: Houston Texans Cheerleaders perform a sideline routine for Task Force Marne servicemembers on COB Speicher, Feb. 8. The cheerleaders visited as part of the Super Bowl celebration meant to boost morale and esprit-de-corps.

“We wanted to boost morale, team cohesion and build esprit-de-corps in the fun spirit of the Super Bowl,” said Sgt. 1st Class Andrea Johnson, noncommissioned

officer in charge of operational law with 3rd ID and a coordinator for the week’s events.

With such large participation in the various events throughout the week, Sgt. 1st Class Johnson and her fellow Judge Advocate General comrades went above and beyond their goal – they provided a necessary break from the routine of a deployment.

Though servicemembers were excited to watch the Super Bowl, it wasn’t about which team won or lost; it was about recreating the normalcy of home. Watching the great American game of football with friends while eating hot wings had the power to momentarily transport the troops back home, if only for a few hours.

“It puts you in a home environment,” Sgt. Maj. Sweetenberg said. “You feel like you’re home in your living room.”

USAMU

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Photo courtesy of USAMU

Soldiers and Cadets fire rifles during the 2009 U.S. Army Small Arms Championships. All Soldiers, Cadets, Army Reservists and National Guard members are eligible to compete in the 2010 "All-Army," Feb. 20-27 at Fort Benning, Ga., hosted by the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit. Prizes and scholarship money are available to those who do well.

Battalion-level and up teams compete for team awards and unit recognition. All Soldiers will receive advanced marksmanship instruction and training materials to conduct train-the-trainer clinics upon return to their home station.

“The USAMU will provide training on all of the weapons prior to the start of the match program,” Hodne said. “All Soldiers will leave the 'All-Army' as more capable marksman, no matter where they find themselves in the overall standings.”

At the matches, coaches and noncommissioned officers-in-charge of the USAMU Service Rifle and Pistol teams will scout, identify and invite selected Soldiers to compete at the Interservice Championships and the National Matches later this summer. Soldiers selected to represent the active Army are funded by the USAMU.

“It’s a win-win for the Soldiers who participate,” added Capt. Seth Loertscher, operations officer, USAMU. “They get invaluable training from the Army’s best shooters and have all of the ammunition provided for them. All they have to do is get in their gear, shoot weapons for an entire week, and they’ll walk away with some great prizes and a memorable experience. It’s guaranteed to be a good time for the competitors.”

For additional information, to register and check out the match bulletin, visit the USAMU Web site at www.usamu.com under “competitions” or contact Michael Behnke, the USAMU chief of competitions, at (706) 545-7841 or michael.behnke@usaac.army.mil, or clarence.fedrick@usaac.army.mil.

For more information, visit

Team Stewart
www.stewart.army.mil