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Non-lethal
A-3



The Big 12
B-1



Foot Loose
C-1

Awards branch releases criteria for Afghanistan, Iraq campaign medals

Multiple phases to be recognized



Lance Cpl. Bryan G. Carfrey

Marines who have served in Afghanistan or Iraq might need to update their record of personal decorations following newly published criteria for Long War campaign awards.

Lance Cpl. Bryan G. Carfrey
Division of Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — Marines who have served in Afghanistan or Iraq might need to update their record of personal decorations following newly published criteria for Long War campaign awards.

As published in Marine Administrative Message 299/08 released in May, U.S. Forces Central Command has broken down operations in Afghanistan and Iraq into phases, and depending on the dates Marines were deployed there, they may rate more campaign stars for correlating medals.

"It's a good thing to come out with something that can show multiple deployments," said Master Sgt. Damian Moreno, a veteran of two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and senior advisor to the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. "It matches up with what has been done in the past."

There is currently no deadline for Marines to update their campaign stars as it is ongoing, said Sgt. Jonah Aycox, unit diary chief for Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, Arlington, Va. However, awards must be entered in a Marine's service record before the recipient

See **MEDALS**, A-5

Power of
Conservation

Lethal Weapon



Cpl. Juan D. Alfonso

Bangladesh Rifles Senior Warrant Officer S. Damannan applies mechanical advantage control hold two on Sgt. Corey Gonzalez July 13 during Non-Lethal Weapons Executive Seminar 2008. Damannan was a student attending the course. Gonzalez is an assistant anti-terrorism force protection instructor with III Marine Expeditionary Force's Special Operations Training Group. For more on this story please see A3.

3rd Radio returns from OEF deployment

Marines provide intelligence in Far East to support Global War on Terrorism

Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard
Combat Correspondent

July 3 through 19 Marines from Alpha Company, 3rd Radio Battalion, returned home to family, friends and fellow Marines here.

The Marines returned from a six-month deployment to the Philippines, providing Signals Intelligence in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Although the focus is in Afghanistan and Iraq, we are still

fighting in the Philippines to help win the Global War on Terrorism," said Gunnery Sgt. Jason Jackson, Bravo Company First Sergeant, 3rd Radio Battalion. "They are working hard to support the country and win the hearts and minds of the people there as well."

During their deployment, 3rd Radio Battalion was awarded the annual National Security Agency - Central Security Service Director's Trophy.

"During the conduct of both combat and non-combat opera-

tions, a relentless focus on operational results ensured that every unit was provided with focused, relevant and actionable Signals Intelligence support," the award citation said.

"The battalion received the award based largely on our continual operations," said 2nd Lt. Eric Molitors, S-3, Future Operations Officer. "Our success is derived from the efforts and hard work of the deployed Marines. They're mostly junior Marines, and they are doing an excellent job out

there." Helping with their success during deployment, the Key Volunteer Network was critical to the success of the Marines, Molitors said.

"We want them to know we're here, supporting them and thinking of them all," said Kristy Constante, KVN coordinator. "We hope to show them that we're proud of what they're doing, and we're behind them all the way."

See **HOME COMING**, A-4

III MEF unit shares non-lethal tactics with Bangladeshi service members, law enforcement personnel



Photos by Cpl. Juan D. Alfonso

Bangladeshi Rifles Senior Warrant Officer S. Damannan applies **mechanical advantage control/hold one** to Sgt. Corey Gonzalez July 13 during Non-Lethal Weapons Executive Seminar 2008 here. Damannan is a student attending the course. Gonzalez is an assistant anti-terrorism force protection instructor with III Marine Expeditionary Force's Special Operations Training Group.

Hands of Fury

Cpl. Juan D. Alfonso
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

PEELKHANA, DHAKA, Bangladesh — Okinawa-based Marines and Sailors shared non-lethal tactics with more than 100 Bangladeshi service members and local law-enforcement personnel July 12 – 21 during a training scenario here.

The training was part of Non-Lethal Weapons Executive Seminar 2008, a bilateral training seminar headed by U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, and conducted by III Marine Expeditionary Force's Special Operations Training Group to teach Bangladeshi service members non-lethal tactics.

The purpose of the seminar is to teach Bangladeshi service members and law-enforcement personnel how to employ non-lethal techniques for peace-keeping operations and security using the minimum amount of force necessary, said Capt. David Fenbert, the assistant SOTG Detachment officer in charge.

"Our hope is that the participants will take this training back to their respective services and, if necessary, use it," said Maj. Bradley Magrath, the SOTG Detachment and field exercise OIC.

The Marines began the nine-day training package with classes on rules of engagement and the force continuum, a system that determines how much force is necessary to suppress an aggressor.

"You need to take temper and intent into consideration before deciding what action you want to take," said Sgt. Russell A. Douthat, an anti-terrorism force protection instructor with the unit. "If there is no immediate threat of bodily harm or death, it may be better to employ non-lethal measures to stop them."

Once the students understood the core doctrines for violence, the instructors began teaching them a series of baton and mechanical advantage control/hold techniques, a series of movements designed to control a suspect using the least amount of energy possible.

"MACH is very good for capturing," said Bangladesh Maj. Shardar-Mohammed Lablur, a student at the course. "It doesn't break bones and allows me to use minimal force to maximize my goal. It's very simple and I will teach it to my men."

Once the students were proficient with all aspects of non-lethal weapons, the Marines introduced them to the two most painful portions of the non-lethal course: the X26E electro-muscular disrupter (stun gun) and oleoresin capsicum (pepper) spray.

Enduring the pain of the stun gun and pepper spray allows users to understand their effects, according to Douthat. It also helps users learn how to defend themselves if an aggressor uses either tactic against them.

"The spray was terrible," said Bangladesh Navy/Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Mohammad Ashrafalalam, a student of the course. "But it was very good training. We don't have the opportunity for this training in my country but maybe we introduce these sorts of items now that we see how effective it is."

After they experienced the effectiveness of pepper spray and tasers, the Marines concluded the training with a series of riot control techniques utilizing bayonets, shields and non-lethal ammunition, such as beanbags.

"Given their non-familiarity with the weapons used they've done very well," said Gunnery Sgt. Dennis Dodd, the senior anti-terrorism force protection instructor and Detachment staff noncommissioned officer in charge. "Once they got past their fear of the unknown and their anxiety, they took to the training and have done well."

Many of their Bangladeshi counterparts felt the training was very beneficial and wanted to thank the Marine instructors for their hard work and patience.

"The Marines were very professional, knew their job and how to teach it," said Bangladesh Rifle Maj. Mohammed Saleh, second in command of the 24th Rifle Battalion and Bangladesh field exercise OIC. "My people enjoyed the experience and I want to thank MarForPac for allowing us to have it."



Sgt. Corey Gonzalez lies compliantly after a Bangladeshi soldier employed simulated pepper spray on him July 14 during Non-Lethal Weapons Executive Seminar 2008 here. Gonzalez is an assistant anti-terrorism force protection instructor with III Marine Expeditionary Force's Special Operations Training Group.



Gunnery Sgt. Dennis Dodd demonstrates how to apply **mechanical advantage control/hold three** July 13 during Non-Lethal Weapons Executive Seminar 2008, here. Dodd is the senior anti-terrorism force protection instructor with III Marine Expeditionary Force's Special Operations Training Group.



A Bangladeshi Rifles soldier swings his bayonet to suppress a simulated suspect after Marine instructors doused him with oleoresin capsicum (pepper) spray July 14 during Non-Lethal Weapons Executive Seminar 2008 here. The training provides a better understanding of the effects of pepper spray before it is employed.



Marine instructors ease Bangladeshi Air Force Flight Lt. Muzaffar Raahath to the ground while experiencing the effects of a X26E electro-muscular disrupter (stun gun) July 15 during Non-Lethal Weapons Executive Seminar 2008 here.



Sgt. Wesley Wallace teaches cuffing procedures to Bangladeshi service members and local law-enforcement personnel July 15 during Non-Lethal Weapons Executive Seminar 2008 here. Wallace is an anti-terrorism force protection instructor with Maine Corps Base Camp Butler's Provost Marshal's Office.



Gunnery Sgt. Dennis Dodd douses a Bangladeshi Rifles soldier with oleoresin capsicum (pepper) spray July 14 during Non-Lethal Weapons Executive Seminar 2008 here. The training is designed to allow personnel to understand the effects of pepper spray before deciding to employ it. Dodd is the senior anti-terrorism force protection instructor with III Marine Expeditionary Force's Special Operations Training Group.