



## Lefebvre receives second star

Story and photo by  
Marine Cpl. Frances L.  
Goch

MNC-I PAO

### Deputy commanding general becomes major general

Brig. Gen. Paul E. Lefebvre, deputy commanding general, Multi-National Corps – Iraq, was promoted to major general July 24 during a ceremony in the Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq.

Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commanding general, MNC-I, presided over the ceremony saying, “We are truly blessed to have a Marine of your caliber with us.”

Brigadier generals Daniel B. Allyn, chief of staff, MNC-I, and Michael Ferriter, deputy commanding general of operations, MNC-I, pinned on Lefebvre’s new rank.

“I have been fortunate to be a part of great teams in the Marine Corps and in joint environments,” Lefebvre said. “It is inspiring to work with people who sacrifice for what they believe in.”

Lefebvre, a native of West Hartford, Conn., graduated from Springfield College in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science in



Brigadier generals Daniel B. Allyn, chief of staff, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, and Michael Ferriter, deputy commanding general of operations, MNC-I, had the honor of pinning the rank of major general on Brig. Gen. Paul E. Lefebvre, deputy commanding general, MNC-I, at his promotion ceremony in Al Faw Palace July 24.

Physical Education. Prior to entering the Marine Corps, he coached football

at Penn State.

Lefebvre started his career as a second lieutenant

in April 1977 following completion of Officer Candidate School. Lefebvre held many operational positions throughout his career. More recently he was the commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and the Eastern Recruiting Region before coming to MNC-I.

Lefebvre has served on the Board of Governors, Marine Corps Association and the Editorial Board, Marine Corps Gazette. He is also an honor graduate of Officer Candidate School, The Basic School and Amphibious Warfare School and a distinguished graduate of Marine War Command and Staff College and the Marine Corps War College.

“When you’ve been in the Marine Corps as long as I have you stay in because you love it,” Lefebvre said. “My wife is largely responsible for me being able to do what I do, I will never be able to repay my debt to her for her sacrifices she has made, allowing me to do what I do.”

In addition to his wife, Lefebvre has a daughter and a son who is a first lieutenant in the Marine Corps presently serving overseas.

# Veterans groups' leaders visit Iraq to help troops

Story by Staff Sgt. Joy Pariante

13th Public Affairs Detachment

Leaders of America's veterans groups came to Iraq July 29 to get a better picture of what life is currently like for servicemembers on the ground, to help shape the national image of our Armed Forces and ensure everyone in uniform is getting the treatment they deserve.

Currently, the majority of members in Veterans Service Organizations are Vietnam-era servicemembers. This doesn't mean, however, that veterans' needs are the only issues these organizations handle. "Veterans Service Organizations is a misnomer," said J.P. Brown, national commander, AMVETS. "We're there also to support the military today, which will join our ranks someday."

"Those that wear the uniform today are very important to us," said Staff Sgt. (Ret.) George Lisicki, commander in chief, Veterans of Foreign War. "They're important to the veterans of the future and to their families. The future of the VFW is the men and women wearing the uniform today."

In addition to taking care of veterans' concerns, organizations such as the Military Officers Association of America, VFW, AMVETS and the American Legion lobby and petition

for better benefits for servicemembers currently serving in the Armed Forces and their families.

"We came here to talk to young Soldiers and see what is needed," Brown said. "We need to learn what you need, not what we think you need. To sit behind a desk at an office and think we know what you need over here is ludicrous."

The group traveled to Taji, were briefed on reconstruction and Iraqi Security Forces training and learned about the capabilities of the Army's mine resistant ambush protected vehicles. Their goal is to bring back to the states a better understanding of the accomplishments and needs of today's military member.

Seeing the work of troops on the

ground first hand gives VSOs a better platform for pushing medical and educational benefits, pay raises and other significant quality of life services for servicemembers, said Vice Admiral (Ret.) Norbert Ryan, president, MOAA.

These first hand accounts that the VSO leaders will bring back to their organizations, Capitol Hill and the media also serve to highlight the successes in Iraq that might be overlooked. "There is definitely progress being made over here," Lisicki said. "I talked to a lot of Soldiers and some citizens and the Iraqis believe in the cause here now. Maybe they didn't a few years ago, but now they believe someday they'll be able to run their own country. That's progress."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk, MNC-I PAO  
 Vice Admiral (Ret.) Norbert Ryan, first seated from center, president, Military Officers Association of America, asks Col. Rock Donahue, standing, director, C7, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, questions about reconstruction efforts in Iraq at the Joint Visitors Bureau July 29. Ryan and other Veterans Service Organization leaders came to Iraq to get a better idea of what servicemembers need in order to better represent them.



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# Regulation changes civilian punishment for misconduct

By Staff Sgt. Joy Pariente

13th Public Affairs Detachment

Following the groundbreaking trial of a civilian contractor by court martial in June, the standards expected of civilians working for the military, especially in Iraq, have become enforceable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

A 2006 amendment to the UCMJ – Section 552 of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2007 (October 17, 2006) states that civilian contractors working for the U.S. government can be punished for violations of the UCMJ. Punishable violations include any form of felony misconduct which is any conduct punishable by more than a year in confinement, said Maj. Terri Erisman, chief, Military Justice, Multi-National Corps – Iraq. This includes offenses such as bribery, drug distribution, assaults and serious thefts.

“The importance of this change to the UCMJ cannot be understated,” said Lt. Col. Jack Ohlweiler, deputy staff judge advocate, MNC-I. “Contractors can now be held accountable when their conduct detracts from the mission or affects good order and discipline.”

Contracted linguist Alaa “Alex” Mohammad Ali was accused with stabbing a fellow linguist in February. He pleaded guilty to wrongful appropriation of a knife owned by a U.S. Soldier; obstruction of justice for wrongfully disposing of the knife after it was used in a fight with another interpreter; and making a false official statement to military investigators.



He was sentenced to five months imprisonment by a military judge. His case was the first time a civilian contractor was tried under UCMJ since 1967. “This shows we will be able to implement the new changes in Article 2 of the UCMJ,” Erisman said. “We absolutely will be able to successfully prosecute civilians.”

“Civilian contractors can now be held accountable for serious felony misconduct and they’re subject to criminal prosecution,” Erisman said. “They could face much more grave consequences than just being fired or sent home.”

Civilians will now be held to the same strict conduct standards as members of the armed forces. Civilian contractors play an important role in Iraq and they are depended upon for the success of the mission, Erisman said. This means they should be held accountable when

their actions prove detrimental to the mission, just like servicemembers.

“They have to abide by the same rules everyone else does,” Erisman said.

Prior to Ali’s case, the most serious punishment civilian contractors faced was being fired from their jobs and sent home. Now all allegations of serious misconduct will be considered for disposition, Erisman said.

The military trial for a civilian follows the same rules and regulations as that of a servicemember. The will first be sent to the Department of Justice for consideration and, if rejected by the DOJ, the individual will face a court martial, Erisman said.

During the trial, they will be given the same rights to fair trial and due process as they would in a civilian court. They will also be provided with legal representation during proceedings, she said.

## Military Happenings



### Army dominates Interservice Rifle Championships

*Army News Service* - The Service Rifle Team of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit of Fort Benning, Ga., won every team match at the 2008 Interservice Rifle Championships July 14 to 22.

More than 125 shooters from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Reserve and National Guard competed in the rifle championships at Quantico Marine Corps Base.

The Army Marksmanship Service Rifle Team won the prestigious Interservice Rifle 10-Man Team Match and brought home the trophy. Team coaches were Sgt. 1st Class Emil Praslick III and Sgt. Walter E. Craig Jr. and team captains were Staff Sgt. William T. Pace and Staff Sgt. Daniel J. Peters. Shooters were Sgts. 1st Class Lance D. Dement, Grant L. Singley and Kyle A. Ward, Staff Sgts. Joel S. Micholick and Tobie L. Tomlinson, Sgt. Brandon K. Green, Spcs. Tyrel L. Cooper, Calvin G. Roberts, Matthew T. Sigrist and Nathan J. Verbickas. Ward shot highest score of 495 points out of a possible 500.

### NASA turns 50

*Air Force News Service* - NASA is 50 years old. It was established on July 29, 1958, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, providing for research into the problems of flight within Earth's atmosphere and in space.

The act inaugurated a new civilian agency designated the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or NASA. The agency began operations on Oct. 1, 1958. Today, in addition to its headquarters in Washington, D.C., NASA facilities include 10 centers around the country staffed by nearly 19,000 employees.

### Exercise marks first for U.S., Brazilian navies

*Navy News Service* - The Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group and the Brazilian Navy participated in a Composite Unit Training Exercise July 8-18, marking the first time a Brazilian Navy surface unit fully integrated into a U.S. strike group.

The crew of the Brazilian naval ship Greenhalgh (F-46) used this opportunity to increase interoperability with other navies and to prepare for possible future international naval missions.

Another first during the exercise was the fact that Greenhalgh and the amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) were the first two ships to operate the new CENTRIX IANTL system at the tactical level. This communications system allowed the exchange of classified messages and chat.

### Marine mascot Chesty XII retires

*Marine Corps News Service* - Sgt. Chesty the XII's six-year tenure as the official mascot of the Barracks came to an end during a retirement ceremony in Washington D.C. Friday.

Chesty the XII, a fawn and white pedigree English bulldog who enlisted in the Marine Corps on March 30, 2002, will spend his years in retirement at home with his caretakers, Gunnery Sgt. Michael Mergen and his wife, Gunnery Sgt. Kristin Mergen.

During his six-year career, which marks the longest tour in Barracks' mascot history, Chesty XII made an appearance at every Evening Parade and participated in several other events in the national capitol region. For his devotion to duty, Chesty XII was awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.