

2nd Brigade Combat  
Team Forward  
Camp Buehring, Kuwait



# Striker Torch

SPECIAL EDITION 29 JAN 06

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# A Word from the Striker Command Team



**COL Robert E. Scurlock Jr.**

**CSM Jose A. Santos**



The Iron Soldiers have truly proven their mettle this month, with stellar training, EDREs, and the NCO/Soldier of the quarter competition. SGT Jeffrey Munson of 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion and SPC Daniel Love of the Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, excelled at difficult mental and physical tasks to win the honor of NCO and Soldier of the quarter. Each competitor was a winner as they kept their skills sharp, conducted pre-combat inspections at four o'clock in the morning, foot marched, assembled and disassembled weapon systems, conducted land navigation, wrote an essay, and answered questions from a panel of Command Sergeants Major.

Each Iron Brigade Soldier improves everyday. They are maintaining discipline, and continue to build a team. They work hard and they play hard, but at all times they take care of one another. Iron Brigade Soldiers are ready for any mission, anywhere. The NCOs and Soldiers that competed this quarter are only a small sample of the outstanding Soldiers that make up this Brigade Combat Team. The next NCO/Soldier of the quarter will be even more challenging to see who is the "best of the best?" Again, congratulations not only to the winners but to all the competitors and the Soldiers of the Iron Brigade. You all have my respect and admiration for being Great Americans in the Iron Brigade.

***STRIKE HARD!***

**Front Cover:**

**Top Left:** Spec. Donald Love, of Troop G, 1st Cavalry Regt. plots points on his map during land navigation. Photo by PFC Joshua Ramey

**Top Right:** PFC Frank Murillo of HHB 4-27 FA calls up a nine-line MEDEVAC report as part of the tasks he had to complete at the first aid portion of CTT Lanes. Photo by PFC Evan Richardson

**Bottom Left:** Spec. Cody Hostetter on the early morning 4 mile road march portion of the NCO and Soldier of the Quarter competition. Photo by PFC Joshua Ramey

**Bottom Right:** Spec. Kenneth Dicristofano of 1-6 IN works on properly disassembling an M16-A2 during the mystery task. Photo by PFC Evan Richardson

**Rear Cover:**

**Top:** Spec. James Michalina low crawls to cover during the react to direct fire lane during the NCO of the Quarter competition. Photo by PFC Evan Richardson

**Left:** Spec. Cody Hostetter spots a Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) while walking down the UXO lane at the Soldier of the Quarter competition. Photo by PFC Evan Richardson

**Right:** Sgt. Travis McBride of 2-6 IN looks through a spotting scope to identify enemy troops during common task testing (CTT). Sgt. McBride's task was to observe and then send a report on simulated enemy activity.

Photo by PFC Evan Richardson



Sgt. Joshua Zimmerman calls for indirect fire during the NCO of the quarter competition.

Photo by PFC Evan Richardson



# 2nd Brigade Combat Team Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Quarter Competition

Story by SFC David Dockett

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (2<sup>nd</sup> BCT) held its Soldier and NCO of the Quarter competition on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of January, 2006 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Thirteen Iron Soldiers and NCOs were recognized by their units for demonstrating outstanding military leadership, appearance, job knowledge, and duty performance. These Soldiers showed professionalism, initiative, and potential by competing and winning Soldier / NCO of the Month and Quarter at the Battalion level before compet-

ing at the Brigade level.

Once they reached the Brigade level of competition, the Soldiers were challenged physically and mentally by competing against each other in several events including the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), Common Task Test (CTT), a 4-mile foot march, an interview board, weapons qualification, land navigation, a written essay, and a mystery event that remained unknown to the competitors before the competition started.

Each event was scored by

Army standards where appropriate, then points were awarded for the participant's performance. Written tests were graded and essays were evaluated on their content. Points were tallied at the end of the competition, and the winners were announced at a social dinner held in the Soldiers' honor on 17 January, 2006.

This issue of the "Striker Torch" describes the events of the competition and talks about what it took to win "Soldier / NCO of the Quarter."



Above: Spec. Cody Hostetter of 47th Forward Support Battalion, takes the land navigation written test and scores the highest out of the junior enlisted competitors. The test was taken prior to the land navigation practical test during the Soldier of the quarter competition. Photo by PFC Joshua Ramey



Sgt. Jeffrey Munson dons his M-40 Protective Mask in a common task testing (CTT) lane during the NCO & Soldier of the quarter competition. Photo by PFC Evan Richardson



Right: Sgt. James Moseley takes his written test during the Common Task Testing (CTT) lanes during the NCO of the Quarter competition. Photo by PFC Joshua Ramey

## Preparing for SOQ Board Needs Dedication, a Good Attitude, and a Good NCO.

Story by Capt. Daniel Napolitano

With the Striker Brigade Soldier of the Quarter (SOQ) competition beginning in mid-January, the 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion was busy selecting its top contender to compete against other battalions within the Brigade. Before a competitor reached the Battalion level, each company went through various selection processes to determine who would represent the Battalion. At the company level, a shining star amongst the applicants was PFC Corey Thomas from A Company, 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion whose preparation was apparent. Preparing a Soldier for the Battalion and Brigade boards took hard work, but with the help of Sgt. Jeffrey Munson also of A Co., 40<sup>th</sup> En. Bn., PFC Corey Thomas was ready for the task.

Sgt. Munson began tutoring PFC Thomas with the knowledge he would need to succeed. Working several hours every day for the past month, Sgt. Munson helped PFC Thomas learn valuable Army knowledge. As a team, they cre-

ated over one hundred Army knowledge cards, which they used during study time, during trips to the dining facility, and even relaxation time on Sundays. Always willing to learn more, PFC Thomas believes “the military knowledge I learn will help me to do my job in the future.”

PFC Thomas’ company also scheduled a practice SOQ board where company platoon sergeants created the board atmosphere while testing the Soldier’s potential. The senior NCOs’ questions included those on the Warrior Ethos, military programs, current events, and the chain of command. PFC Thomas was able to observe first-hand how the NCO board process works and appreciate the stress involved when answering questions. After the board, Sgt. Munson commented that PFC Thomas was “one of the most high-speed Soldiers [he has] seen.”

The two days prior to the 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer’s SOQ board, Sgt. Munson helped plan PFC Thomas’

schedule down to the hour. PFC Thomas studied hard struggling to capture so much information in his mind. Afterward, he received a good night’s sleep followed by a healthy breakfast in the morning. No knowledge was to be studied on the morning of the board, in order to “allow the mind to breathe.”

In the end, PFC Corey Thomas outscored four other Soldiers and was selected as the Battalion Soldier of the Quarter to represent the 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion at the Brigade SOQ Board. His attitude and proficiency in his job were noticed by everyone in his chain of command. Sgt. Munson described him as a Soldier “willing to learn and always gung-ho.” PFC Thomas was eager to compete for the Brigade Soldier of the Quarter. Though not selected for the top honor, PFC Thomas believes the rewards of competing instill a “great confidence and pride in yourself that can be used throughout your Army career.”

### Soldiers and Families:

## Don’t Forget **Valentine’s Day** is Coming Up Soon

Soldiers, would you like to send home a shout out to your family?

Families, would you like to send a shout out to your Soldier?

The Striker Torch staff is accepting submissions for written shout outs and photographs for Valentine’s Day.

For more information, please contact your battalion UPAR representative (listed on the back of this issue).





Left: Sgt. James Mosely of 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, fires a round while qualifying with an M-4 for the NCO of the quarter competition at a range near Camp Buehring, Kuwait.  
Photo by PFC Joshua Ramey

Below: Spec. Jason Strickland of 1st Bn., 35th Armd. Regt. shoots an azimuth on his compass during the land navigation portion of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Soldier of the quarter competition.  
Photo by PFC Evan Richardson



Left: PFC Frank Murillo (left) of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment and Sgt. Jeffrey Munson (right) of A Company, 40th Engineer Battalion march towards the finish line of the four mile Road march.  
Photo by PFC Evan Richardson



Soldiers and NCOs take the first step in the 2 mile run portion of the Army Physical Fitness Test during the Soldier and NCO of the quarter competition. Photo by PFC Evan Richardson

# Top 2nd BCT Soldiers and NCOs Compete for Quarterly Recognition

Story by PFC Joshua Ramey

Thirteen of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team's (BCT) best Soldiers and NCOs competed against each other for the honor of being called "Soldier or NCO of the Quarter" on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of January at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The Soldiers were challenged physically and mentally, participating in an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), a 4 mile road march, Common Task Test (CTT), selection boards, land navigation, and a "mystery task" of which they had no knowledge before the beginning of the competition. Each Soldier also wrote an essay and participated in written evaluations on CTT and land navigation subjects.

The first day of the competition started with a standard APFT and weigh-in to ensure that all Soldiers met the Army standards for physical fitness and weight. Soldiers performed as many push-ups and sit-ups as they could in two two-minute time periods. Once complete, the Soldiers ran 2 miles as fast as they could. Spec. Patrick Michalina of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, finished the run first in 13 minutes.

After breakfast and a change of uniform, the Soldiers

waited for their turn at the selection board and the "mystery task," while the NCOs went to conduct CTT in a field environment. 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT Command Sergeant Major Jose Santos presided over the selection board while the Battalion and Task Force Command Sergeants Major tested the Soldier's general Army knowledge as well as knowledge of Camp Buehring. "They asked really precise questions about Camp Buehring such as rules of the chow halls, the hours of when different facilities are open, things like that. I was a little nervous standing in front of all the Sergeants Major," said Spec. Donald Love, G Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry. "We basically had to demonstrate knowledge of Army material, to know our job, and how to take care of Soldiers," said



Sgt. Joseph Mercado of B Company, 141st Signal Battalion, applies a dressing to Pvt. 2 Daniel Heinzen's arm during the first-aid lane at the NCO of the quarter competition. Photo by PFC Joshua Ramey

Sgt. Travis McBride of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, who

receive the highest score of the NCO interview board. Spec. Cody Hostetter from the 47<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion had the highest Soldier board score. After the Soldiers completed their board interview, they went directly to the "mystery event" which tested their knowledge of various weapon systems commonly found in the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT. The



Soldiers and NCOs zero their weapons in preparation for the qualification portion of a competition selecting the top participants in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team for the NCO / Soldier of the quarter competition. Photo by PFC Joshua Ramey

task was to clear, disassemble, reassemble, and perform functions checks on the M2 .50 caliber, the M240B, and the M249 machine guns, as well as the M16 rifle and M9 pistol within specified time limits.

While the Soldiers were engaged in the interview board and mystery task, the NCOs were busy performing CTT lanes, and taking a written test. The NCOs took the test first and were given 45 minutes to complete it. "A lot of the test was based on experience. It was nice to have deployment experience to answer the tactical portion of the test," said Sgt. Jeffrey Munson, from A Co. 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn. Sgt. Joshua Zimmerman from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment scored the highest of the NCOs on the written test. Spec. Cody Hostetter from 47<sup>th</sup> FSB scored the highest on the Soldiers' test.

There were ten CTT events; some events were distinctively for NCOs, and others specific to Soldiers. The events tested Soldiers on subjects such as Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear knowledge, first aid, explosive ordinance disposal, maintenance of an M16 or M4 rifle, call for fire (NCOs), process materials (NCOs), entry control point operations, and react to indirect fire.

Zimmerman said, "I'm pretty excited. I think CTT will be toughest. Every task has so many steps to memorize. That is where I spent most of my free time studying." While Zimmerman scored the highest on the written portion, Sgt. Travis McBride of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment scored the highest on the practical CTT evaluation. Completion of CTT marked the end of a long day for Soldiers and NCOs of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT competing to be the "best." The next day

was not looking any easier, mentally or physically.

Starting at 0400 on the morning of January 16, the competitors were bused out to a spot in the desert with their weapons, gear, and combat assault packs weighing at least 45



Spec. Donald Love of G Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry finishes first in the 2 mile run for the Army physical fitness test portion of the Soldier of the quarter competition. Photo by PFC Joshua Ramey

lbs. The next task was a 4 mile foot march that had the competitors race rather than march through the desert. Soldiers ran in darkness of the early morning across rough desert terrain. The trail was marked by occasional chemical lights, and a first aid vehicle driving in front of the runners leading the way. At the break of dawn, the competitors finished the event with Spec. Patrick Michalina from 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 6<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt., finishing first with an impressive time of 49:36. "The sand added about 7 or 8 minutes to my time," he said.

The Soldiers ended the march at the entrance of the weapon zero and qualification range, and got right to work. Soldiers zeroed and then qualified with their weapons firing at paper targets. Spec. Love scored the highest with 39 out of 40 hits, and Sgt.



( From Left to Right ) Sgt. Joshua Zimmerman of HHB, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Sgt. James Mosely from 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, and Sgt. Bryan Ratel from 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, walk 200 meters to count their paces so they are able to accurately conduct land navigation operations during the NCO of the quarter competition for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. Photo by PFC Joshua Ramey

## Special Edition Question of the Week

### What was the most challenging event and why?

Questions and Photos by PFC Jeremy Neece



PFC Corey Thomas  
A Co., 40th EN

The land navigation because I haven't done a lot of training with it.



Spec. Patrick Michalina  
HHC, 2-6 IN

The land navigation because I have no experience doing it in the desert. Going over the hills really messes up your pace count.



Spec. Kenneth Dicristofano  
HHC, 1-6 IN

The CTT training was the most challenging because it of the multiple events and it was hard trying to train on all of them.



Sgt. Joseph Mercado  
B Co., 141 SIG

The day and night land navigation because you couldn't see anything. If your points are off by a little then it would be wrong.



PFC Frank Murillo  
HHB, 4-27 FA

The night land navigation because its really hard to see anything. You have to bump into your point, if not you won't find it.



Sgt. Travis McBride  
C Co., 2-6 IN

The mystery event, not from the task itself, but the fact that I wasn't properly prepared for the event.



Spec. Cody Hostetter  
B Co., 47th FSB

The ruck march because of the intensity.



Sgt. Joshua Zimmerman  
HHB 4-27 FA

The Mystery event because you really didn't know what to expect. I was surprised of what the task was.

Munson, and Sgt. Bryan Ratel, of C Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 6<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt., both scoring 38. When the marksmanship portion of the day was finished, they faced day and night land navigation which put the Soldiers mental endurance to the test.

The day and night land navigation courses began with a written test on the concepts of land navigation. Spec. Cody Hostetter of 47<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion and Sgt. Joshua Zimmerman of HHB, 4<sup>th</sup> Bn., 27<sup>th</sup> FA scored the highest out of the competitors. The day course consisted of determining the

grid location of their assigned start point and four points to locate within 2 hours. The course went across the open desert outside Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Because of a lack of terrain features, the competitors had to rely on the method of "dead reckoning" to find most of their points. The dead reckoning method consists of the Soldier using a compass to find the correct azimuth to their point, and counting their paces to measure distance. Sgt. Zimmerman of 4<sup>th</sup> Bn., 27<sup>th</sup> FA Regt., found the most points out of the NCO competitors, and

Spec. Love found the most points out of the Soldiers competing.

The night land navigation course required extensive use of dead-reckoning. The Soldiers and NCOs were only allowed to use a magnetic compass and flashlight for this portion of the test. The azimuth and distance were already calculated for them; the flashlight was only meant to be used to record identification numbers found on their points. Despite the difficulties that the darkness made on the ability to navigate, nearly every competitor performed



better on the night task than on the day task. Spec. Kenneth Dicristofano of 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 6<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt., with Spec. Love and Spec. Michalina along with the NCOs: Sgt. James Mosely from 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 35<sup>th</sup> Armd. Regt., Sgt. McBride, and Sgt. Munson found every point.

The land navigation event was the capstone event of the competition.



Spec. Kenneth Dicristofano of 1st Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. works on properly reassembling an M240B machine gun during the mystery task portion of the Soldier of the Quarter Competition. Photo by PFC Evan Richardson

Competitors breathed sighs of relief and speculated as to who would be the winners. Each competitor's score was tallied for each of the separate events and the final scores between

them were extremely close in both the NCO, and Soldier categories.

"[The competitors] were great warriors... We welcome them and encourage them to come to the next [Soldier/NCO of the Quarter competition]. It will be greater, better, and a little more stressing than this one, I guarantee you that," said CSM Jose Santos at the Soldier / NCO of the

Quarter social dinner held in honor of the competitors. The winners, Sgt. Jeffrey Munson and Spec. Donald Love, sat at the head table with the Brigade Commander, Colonel Robert E. Scurlock, Jr., and Brigade Command Sergeant Major, Jose Santos. The evening was a celebration of the competition that had taken place, filled with stories and anecdotes from an experience that brought Soldiers from different units of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT

closer together. The winners of the Brigade competition were awarded Army Commendation Medals, four day passes to Qatar, 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT coins, 500

unit AT&T phone cards, and mounted certificates of achievement from the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT. The weeks of studying and training the Soldiers and NCOs spent preparing for the competition paid off for all of the competitors, showing that these Iron Soldiers are shining examples of how iron sharpens iron, just as one Iron Soldier sharpens another.



Spec. Donald Love checks ID cards against an access roster during a Common Tasks Test lane as part of the Soldier of the Quarter competition. Photo by PFC Evan Richardson

**Upcoming**  
**MWR Events**

**Sunday, 29 January 2006**  
1000 : Bazaar @ Events Tent  
1500 : Foosball Tournament @ Rec Ctr

**Monday, 30 January 2006**  
1400 : Spades Tournament @ Oasis

**Tuesday, 31 January 2006**  
1900 : Dominoes Tournament @ Oasis

**Wednesday, 1 February 2006**  
1900 : Texas Hold'em Poker  
Tournament @ Oasis

**Friday, 3 February 2006**  
Bingo Night @ Events Tent

**Saturday, 4 February 2006**  
Spa Day  
0900 : Super Bowl Punt, Pass, Kick @ Field  
1500 : Chess Tournament @ Oasis  
1700 : Checkers Tournament @ Oasis

**Sunday, 5 February 2006**  
Spa Day  
1900 : Darts Tournament @ Rec Ctr

Contact MWR  
Sports Activities  
828-1234

Rec. Activities  
828-1202

# The Warrior Ethos

Written by Sgt. Jeffrey Munson

A motivated Sapper stands above the rest as he states his creed, "I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade!" These are the words of the Warrior Ethos, the words we live by. Not everyone has their own understanding on this oath, but those of us who have seen combat know what these words represent. The following words explain what Warrior Ethos means to me, and how I apply it to the work I do in my unit.

To this Sapper, the Warrior Ethos is about being with Warriors and Soldiers. Fighting in a foxhole or fighting position beside the people I trust, all living, working, and training together to accomplish the mission. It means using all means of resistance if captured, and planning a successful escape to get back in the fight. It has taught me to always keep my head up so others know to never feel down - but if they do, they know that I will be there to help. It wouldn't matter if it was a battlefield injury, or the loss of a loved one,

Soldiers are there for each other. Always remember the fallen, and recover them from the battlefield – never leave behind a fallen comrade. We look to the men we admire: Audie Murphy, Paul Smith, CSM Falaniko, Joe Specker....all Soldiers that lived the Ethos everyday, and passed it along to those that followed after them. To me, the Warrior Ethos is a way of life that every military Soldier should live by.

I live the Warrior Ethos, I apply it every day in my life. To train hard earns the trust of my teammates around me. I apply stern and strong standards to my Soldiers so they will one day understand why we fight. I see these Warriors grow everyday as they see my example, one which they can use to forge a strong foundation of their own. One day these Soldiers will lead Warriors of their own, and they will use the words of the Warrior Ethos to develop their own Soldiers. Until then, I continue to teach my Soldiers the value of being part of a team, the importance of our Army values, and bond them together with the military adhesive

we know as trust. Subtle tests such as sand drills during Physical Training and buddy team live fires help grow this trust more and more, to the point where cohesion and the team take precedence over self-image. I am confident that when the time for danger is among us, we will stand together to conquer it...or die trying.

In conclusion, I am left with a short story of the last time I was home with my best friends. I was once asked, "Why do you do it man? Why do you deploy without question? How can you go through all that hassle? Do you yearn to kill? Do you enjoy the combat?" I never respond to their questions....and I never will. My friends do not understand the words and principals behind the Warrior Ethos, and won't understand how the teams we build are more important than any one of us. I am fortunate enough to experience something they never will - to be part of a team, lucky enough to have the great privilege of leading and serving with Soldiers that live the Warrior Ethos.

# BEAR

## BONUS EXTENSION AND REENLISTMENT PROGRAM

**Do you know what the BEAR program is?**

**The BEAR program is a program that gives qualified Soldiers in balanced and over strength MOS the opportunity to change their MOS to a critically short MOS and receive a Bonus.**

**Contact your Career Counselor to find out what opportunities are out there for you TODAY.**



2nd Brigade Retention Office  
Bldg. 6-9, Room 8 or 828-1519

# The Winners

Story by SFC David Dockett - Photos by PFC Evan Richardson

The competition for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (2<sup>nd</sup> BCT) Soldier / NCO of the Quarter has ended, and the scores were close. Two winners emerged that clearly demonstrated outstanding military leadership, appearance, job knowledge, and performance while competing for Soldier / NCO of the Quarter honors.

what we can do up here in the BRT (Brigade Reconnaissance Team)."

When Spec. Love was asked about what he did to prepare for the competition, he said, "My chain of command was really supportive, they gave me the time and advice I needed to succeed. My Platoon Sergeant, SSG [Jake] Stover has been a winner of Soldier of the Month and Quarter boards before, and

he told me what I could expect. Sgt. [Steven] Gsell, my squad leader, was there for me, keeping me going and keeping me focused on what I

per squad in Grafenwoehr, Germany before deploying to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He hasn't been here long, but in the short time he has been here he has made quite an impression. In that time, Sgt. Munson has trained his mechanized engineer squad, and gained confidence from his higher leadership to be able to compete for Brigade NCO of the Quarter.

When asked about what he has accomplished since his assignment to the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, Sgt. Munson said, "All I ever wanted to do is be a Sapper – blow stuff up and lead Soldiers." Although it takes quite a bit of work to accomplish something like winning the NCO of the Quarter, it has not been Sgt. Munson's main mis-

2nd Brigade Combat Team  
NCO of the Quarter



Sgt.  
Jeffrey  
Munson

A Company,  
40th Engineer  
Battalion

The 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT Soldier of the Quarter for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2006 is Spec. Donald Love from Troop G, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry. Spec. Love has been with Troop G, 1<sup>st</sup> Sqdn., 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. since he graduated from 19D One Station Unit Training (OSUT) more than two years ago. He also deployed with "Ghost Troop" the last time the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT went to Iraq.

Spec. Love has been assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Troop G, 1<sup>st</sup> Sqdn. 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. since coming back from Iraq in 2004. He is currently a gunner in 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, and he is getting ready to go to the selection board for the rank of Sergeant. "My main motivation for competing for Soldier of the Quarter was to gain experience for the E-5 board" said Spec. Love. "In the end it turned out to be a great experience to represent G Troop in the competition, and show the rest of the Brigade

needed to learn to be successful."

The Soldier of the Quarter said that all the hard work paid off. "It was a lot of work to prep for the selection board, but when I got in there everything

clicked. I felt like I was ready." The 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT NCO of the Quarter for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2006 is Sgt. Jeffrey Munson from Company A, 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Task Force Regulars. Sgt. Munson has only been with the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT for a short time, having arrived in Baumholder in September 2005 and coming to work for Co. A, 40<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn., in October 2005. He had a short amount of time to train with his Sap-

2nd Brigade Combat Team  
Soldier of the Quarter



Spec.  
Donald  
Love

G Troop,  
1st Squadron,  
1st Cavalry  
Regiment

per here in Kuwait. "Since I've been here my emphasis has not been on going to or winning boards, it has been training my squad. The great thing about this experience is that it has helped me prepare my Soldiers for their Soldier of the Month or promotion boards. Having them help me with my preparations was the best training I had for the selection board."



## STRIKER TORCH NEWS TEAM

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This Edition can also be found online at  
<http://www.1ad.army.mil/2BCTNewsletters.htm>



**We are looking for any type of submissions to include:  
letters, articles, comic strips or artwork, and photographs.**

If you would like a copy of this issue please contact your Battalion UPAR  
1-6IN: 1LT Bledy Taka, 2-6IN: 1LT Gabriel Martinez,  
1-35AR: 1LT Zachary Hadfield, 40th EN: CPT Daniel Napolitano,  
47th FSB: CPT Heather Jangraw 4-27 FA: MAJ Frederick Bower

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