



Spartan Chronicle

pointing out the weekly news from the 2nd BCT

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Photo by Sgt. Jason Stadel

Col. Hussein, commander 5th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and A'amash Kadhume, Concerned Local Citizen commander in the Al Rashid region cut the symbolic ribbon, opening the Maderiyah health clinic Jan. 3. See page 2.



Sheikhs stand up to AQI

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Deals on wheels: Mobile PX delivers

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Talent show draws crowd

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Water, clinic restore hope to Maderiyah

Sgt. Jason Stadel
2nd BCT PAO

The residents of Maderiyah are the latest Iraqi citizens to see progress in their community. On Jan. 3, a medical clinic was opened in an area that had not seen a doctor since Operation Iraqi Freedom began in 2003.

For months, Maderiyah has been an insurgent strong hold; the people have had little hope, only fear, one man said. The work of U.S. Soldiers, Iraqi Army, and Concerned Local Citizens has led to a safer community with much less influence from extremists.

“This is great. I can’t explain in words what this means to me. I’m so happy,” said Saadin San Ali. Saadin is also a member of the Maderiyah CLCs. “We are all proud to have this clinic and we are proud to be from this community.”

Prior to the opening of the clinic, there was no



Photo by Sgt. Jason Stadel

Capt. Kenneth Guglielmina, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment civil affairs team leader, right, Maj. David Underwood, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, center, and Bashir Altaie, civil affairs team bilingual bicultural advisors drink from the new well installed at the Maderiyah health clinic Jan. 3.

medical treatment facility reasonably accessible to the residents. The health clinic now occupies what was once a veterinary clinic.

The civil affairs team for 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. has been planning and working to open the clinic

“This is great. I can’t explain in words what this means to me. I’m so happy.”

-Saadin San Ali

Maderiyah concerned local citizen

for months. The civil affairs team leader said he has seen the Maderiyah residents’ spirits rise since the improvements

have been made to the town.

“The people get a

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positive outlook when they see change,” Capt. Kenneth Guglielmina said.

The clinic will be open twice a week. The primary caregiver will be a certified medical assist that lives in Al Thuar, outside Maderiyah. The caregiver will also be on call in case of an emergency situation.

Maj. David Underwood, commander Battery B, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division said the ability of the residents to begin a CLC program, work with U.S. Soldiers, and set aside secular

“Clean drinking water is in the top three things Iraqis want and need and it fosters good public health.”

**-Capt. Trista Mustaine
*ePRT public health officer***

differences to work with the Iraqi Army, has helped to build the infrastructure in Maderiyah.

The town has also seen the completion of a newly-paved main road that at one time was littered with improvised explosive devices.

A well was dug which supplies fresh water to the clinic which turned out to be an added bonus to a town that didn’t have a

clean water source.

“Clean drinking water is in the top three things Iraqis want and need and it fosters good public health,” said Capt. Trista Mustaine, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. embedded provincial reconstruction team, public health officer.

“We said the clinic has to have water but the whole village needs water so we decided to build a big well,” she said.

Mustaine said the success that has come from building the Maderiyah clinic, to include using local contractors and digging a working well, will be the model for other Iraqi communities that are in need of health care.

The Maderiyah residents hope the clinic grows even more, with more staff and longer hours but in the mean time the residents are happy to have hope for the future.

“Today was the first time I’ve smiled in five years,” Sheikh A’amash Kadhuma a CLC commander in the Al Rashid region said.



Photo by Sgt. Jason Stadel

A feast of lamb and rice was served to celebrate the opening of the Maderiyah health clinic Jan. 3.



Photo by Sgt. Jason Stadel

A Soldier from 26th Brigade Support Battalion does final inspections of the load as it is hooked to the CH-47 Chinook helicopter Jan. 4 during the sling load mission from Forward Operating Base Kalsu to Patrol Base Dolby.

Sling loaders lift heavy load from Soldiers

Sgt. Jason Stadel
2nd BCT PAO

In combat, the success of troops fighting on the front line depends heavily on the success of the troops supplying the front line.

The 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team is helping to ensure that success as they help to build the latest patrol base in the brigade's area of operations.

On Jan. 4 Soldiers from 26th BSB, with the help of CH-47 Chinook helicopters from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Inf. Div.,

sling loaded 12 military containers, commonly called "milvans" to Patrol Base Dolby.

Sling loading is when helicopters transport the containers from one location to another.

PB Dolby will be used by 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers to conduct operations against extremists.

This mission was to transport the loaded containers to PB Dolby. The containers had food, water, wood and barriers that will be filled with sand and dirt to provide protection around the base.

The executive officer from the 26th BSB said sling load missions

are crucial to combat missions.

"We're a force multiplier in combat logistics support," Maj. Henry Young said. "Every day counts. These 12 milvans will help our Soldiers in the battle. By doing this we're helping each Soldier to create a safer and more secure Iraq."

With sling loading, there are fewer patrols on the road, which means less Soldiers on the road. "That means less risk of one our drivers going out there and getting hit by an IED or small-arms fire," said Spc. Ivan Zayas-Taylor

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Company A, 26th BSB.

The success of the mission relied on the experience of the Soldiers.

“Experience is a pretty big part,” said Zayas-Taylor, who is sling-load team leader and rigger. “You can’t really practice for it until you have a helicopter over head.”

Zayas-Taylor and Staff Sgt. Floyd Lewis, the sling-load team’s inspector, gained experience sling loading while assigned to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

“Air assault ties into it because it’s part of the sling-load procedure,” said Zayas-Taylor, a Jacksonville, Ala. Native. “During the second phase of air assault school you learn how to rig, hook and set up a landing zone, pick-up zone and drop



A Soldier completes the final hookup on a chinook helicopter from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade. The helicopters were carrying military containers from Forward Operating Base Kalsu to Patrol Base Dolby. The containers contained wood, barriers, food and water to the patrol base Jan. 4.

Photos by Sgt. Jason Stadel

zones.”

Also it gives Soldiers a unique mission while in Iraq.

“It’s not everyday you work with a Chinook a couple feet above your

head,” Lewis said. “I think our guys like doing this, it’s a different kind of pace.”

Whether on the front lines or supplying them, Young said every Soldier

has a role in the overall success of the mission of securing Iraq.

“It’s a team effort; we all make up the Marne team. We all have a part to play,” he said.



The sling load team from 26th Brigade Support Battalion prepares to hook up the container to a Chinook helicopter. After hook up, the pair take off (right) for delivery.

Street lights restore sense of safety

Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
2nd BCT PAO

With small additions like street lights, a sense of safety is returning to the streets of Arab Jabour and Al Buaytha.

Having been installed more than a month ago, it took some time before residents of the area saw the effect of having the lights. The same is true for the Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Now, Soldiers and Concerned Local Citizens are relishing in the peace of mind the lights bring.

The street lights are just the first step in securing the night for CLCs, says Yassin Majid Yassin, a member of the CLCs in Arab Jabour.

He hopes that in time he and his fellow CLCs will be able to take on a larger role in securing their neighborhoods at night, but that for now 1-30th Inf. Reg. Soldiers take care of it.

Spc. Dwight Arceneaux, a

combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, said since adding the lights, night patrols are a little safer because when he or his fellow Soldiers see anyone out after dark they are easily identifiable.

A fact that Yassin said his fellow CLCs take comfort in.

Arceneaux added that it also gives him and his fellow Soldiers the ability to recognize which vehicles should or shouldn't be out on roads after curfew.

Yassin, agreed with Arceneaux adding that night time visibility has also meant that roads can stay open in the daytime due to the decreased IED threat.

"If you were to ask all the people around here they would tell you the same thing; the lights have made things safer," he said.

As Coalition Forces push further south into areas where al-Qaeda has been pushed, CLCs like Yassin will take on a larger role in defending their communities.



Photo by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

A Concerned Local Citizen stands watch near a checkpoint in Arab Jabour Dec. 27. Street lights, a recent addition to the area, have assisted in the decline of improvised explosive devices being placed on roads traveled by citizens.

Safety Alert - Extension Cords

- If an extension cord is not marked for outdoor use, use it indoors only.
- If the cord has any areas that are cracked or frayed, dispose of the cord.
- The appliance or tool with which you are using the cord will have a wattage rating on it. Don't use a cord that has a lower rating than the appliance.
- Don't run extension cords through doorways or through holes in ceilings, walls or floors.
- Make sure the appliance or tool is off before you plug it into the cord.
- Make sure the plug is fully inserted in the outlet.
- Don't remove, bend or modify any of the metal parts of the cord's plug.
- You shouldn't have to force a plug into an outlet. If the plug is too loose in the outlet, the outlet may be too old and needs to be replaced.
- Some cords are polarized; one hole on the plug is larger than the other. Match up the outlet and the cord.
- Keep cord away from water.
- Don't plug one extension cord into another.
- Don't overheat the cord. Uncoil it, and don't cover it with anything.
- Don't walk or drive over the cord.



Photo by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Sheiks from areas surrounding Sayafia spoke with Commanders Col. Terry Ferrell, 2nd Brigade Combat Team and Col. Dan Ball, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, at Forward Operating Base Kalsu Jan. 4.

New allies come forward to fight terror

Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
2nd BCT PAO

In a vital and encouraging boost to the efforts against al Qaeda in Iraq, local sheiks met with Coalition Forces to discuss cooperation and future Concerned Local Citizen programs Jan. 4.

Sheiks from areas surrounding Sayafia spoke with Commanders Col. Terry Ferrell, 2nd Brigade Combat Team and Col. Dan Ball, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division.

During the event, sheiks introduced themselves to Ferrell and Ball, relaying to both leaders some of the crimes and injustices that al-Qaeda carried out.

In one instance an Iraqi man

described being forced from his home and land by al-Qaeda who are now using his property as a safehouse.

Ultimately, he ended up pleading with both leaders to help him get property back, to which Ferrell replied, "That's what I'm here to do."

Ferrell went on to tell both senior leaders that he hoped they were serious about their commitment to the area.

"When we come to stay we're going to do two things. We're going to work with you and we're going to kill anyone who is a threat to the Iraqi population," he said.

Ferrell's focus sharpened when he began to hear information

from the sheiks regarding the whereabouts and strength of al-Qaeda forces.

He emphasized to the community leaders the most important thing they could be doing was giving him information on the locations and strength of al-Qaeda forces.

Additionally he emphasized the importance of not having the sheiks arm their respective communities and rove around looking for insurgents.

Ferrell emphasized that militias are illegal in Iraq and the CLCs need to focus their efforts on providing information on terrorist activities in and around their homes and villages.

FEATURE



Mobile PX delivers goods to frontline fighters

Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
2nd BCT PAO

If he was home greeting you when you entered the dealership he once worked at, the former salesman would greet you with, “Good morning my name is Wally. Welcome to Stokes-Brown Toyota.”

Now, Staff Sgt. Wally Lawver’s

call sign is “Candyman” and he operates a Post Exchange from the 40-foot shipping container he hauls with a truck and trailer.

In his visits to Combat Outpost Murray and Patrol Base Hawkes, the trained transportation specialist works for the benefit of many of the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd

Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

For Lawver, a native of Beaufort, S.C., the mission began two months ago when he was at Forward Operating Base Kalsu searching for a more meaningful purpose. At the time, he had no Soldiers to take charge of, but opportunity came knocking.

He was given the chance to take care of Soldiers and be his own boss, an opportunity not granted to many, and in a blink of an eye he seized it.

“This is as easy as it gets when it comes to an NCO’s job, taking care of Soldiers,” said Lawver.

However, the job didn’t start out that easy.

After being donated a leaky shipping container, Lawver set out to make it weatherproof and filled it with shelving. He had to construct it all on his own.

He said the hardest part of the entire build was getting the lofty 400-pound shelving units moved into the container, which he did using an ancient technique.

Through the use of round logs,



Photo by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Staff Sgt. Wally Lawver, (background) a transportation specialist, with Company F, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, tends to a customer visiting his Post Exchange trailer located at Patrol Base Murray Dec. 27.

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he painstakingly rolled each of the eight shelving units up ramps and finally into the container.

Once all of the pieces were in place he was fronted money through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service to buy stock for the shelves.

Pfc. Michael Harrison, a tanker with Co. C, said he shops at the PX trailer, affectionately called, "Staff Sgt. Lawver's Outfitters," because Lawver has what they don't have at the patrol base.

The hours are long; when he's visiting a patrol base he stays open 24-hours-a-day to accommodate the grueling schedules of Soldiers in outlying areas.

The trailer also doubles as his living quarters but he says the conditions are ideal for



Photos by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Staff Sgt. Wally Lawver, (foreground) transportation specialist, with Company F, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, cashes out Pfc. Michael Harrison, (background) a tanker with Co. C, at the Post Exchange trailer located at Patrol Base Murray Dec. 27. The traveling trailer is operated solely by Lawver and visits Combat Outpost Hawkes and Patrol Base Murray on a weekly basis.

him and the mission he has been placed in charge of is important enough to keep him highly motivated throughout the

long days.

"He brings Falcon to us," said Harrison, of Paulsboro, N.J.

In his inventory, Lawver carries various types of snack foods, magazines, highly coveted tobacco products, medicines for the common cold, and the typical personal hygiene items.

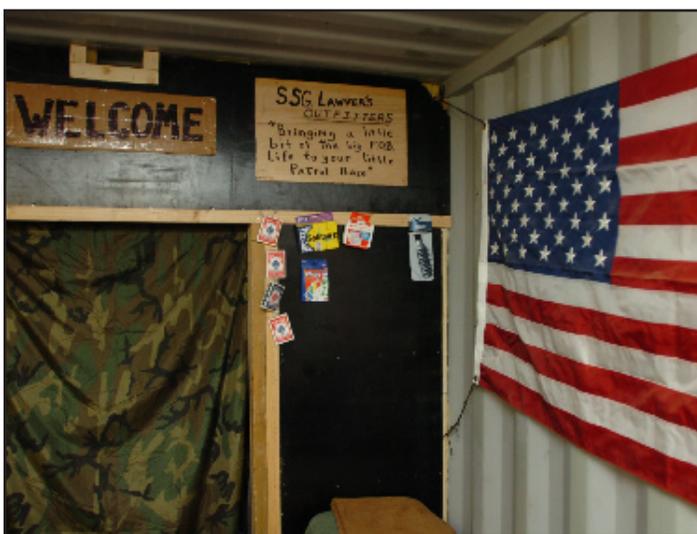
"It's every Americans God-given right to have fatty snack foods and I'm the answer," he said.

He even carries some of the latest magazine titles; in his store there is an entire wall of sundry items and books donated

by chaplains and other good Samaritans, which are available to anyone free of charge.

Lawver said if there are items he doesn't have when he arrives at Soldiers' patrol bases then they can special order anything and he does his best to ensure they are delivered in a timely manner.

In his first few weeks of being open, Lawver said he wasn't sure if he was going to be able to keep up with the volume of business he was receiving, but after a



Lawver, (not pictured) operates a Post Exchange trailer, dubbed "SSG Lawver's Outfitters," that visits Combat Outpost Hawkes and Patrol Base Murray on a weekly basis.

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few weeks of being open, the customers tapered off. Things eventually settled down and now Lawver has been able to settle into a routine he's comfortable with.

Lawver says he's grateful for the opportunity he's been afforded and by bringing a little bit of big FOB life to the patrol base, he said he's showing the Soldiers on the front lines how much they are appreciated.

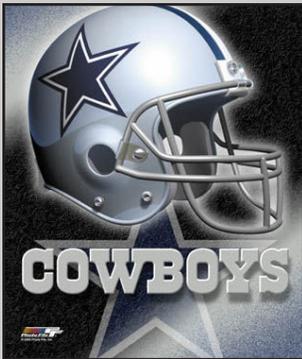


Photo by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Staff Sgt. Wally Lawver, (background) transportation specialist, with Company F, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, tends to customers visiting his Post Exchange trailer located at Patrol Base Murray Dec. 27.

We Want YOU! Shoutout for DVIDS shoutouts

1. We are looking for some Dallas Cowboys fans to talk about the Cowboys in front of the camera. The local battalion would like to get some soundbites with North Texas Soldiers about the Dallas Cowboys. They would specifically want them to talk about Tony Romo, Jason Whitten, and/or Coach Phillips.



Questions like:

- * Are they watching the games?
- * Does it help with Morale?
- * What do they think of Romo? Whitten? The Cowboys as a team this year?
- * Does it get them excited to watch?

2. We have another request for HOCKEY Shout outs!!! The Pittsburgh Penguins would love to get some troops saying hi to the team!

3. TEAM SHOUT OUTS NEEDED FOR:
- Brigham Young University
 - Buffalo Sabres
 - Detroit Pistons
 - Minnesota Timberwolves

- NY Giants
- NY Islanders
- Tennessee Titans
- University of Florida
- University of Maryland
- University of Minnesota
- Wright State University

All you need to say is your: Name, Rank, Where you are stationed in Iraq, Where you are from and add a message to the team.

*All interviews are taped and can be shared over the Web with your family – and it's free! See www.dvidshub.net for more details and to see what the world's finest Soldiers have been up to.

To participate, e-mail 1LT Kalen Smith at: kalen.marie.smith@2bct3id.army.mil



New academy to teach Iraqi NCOs

Spc. Emily Wilsoncroft
MND-C PAO

“No one is more professional than I,” states the U.S. Army’s NCO Creed, and noncommissioned officers at Forward Operating Base Kalsu are gearing up to instill the same pride and professionalism in their Iraq Army counterparts.

The Task Force Marne NCO Academy at FOB Kalsu will welcome its first class of Iraqi Soldiers Jan. 14.

“We’re going to be teaching them everything – combat orders, combat medical, map-reading, mounted patrols, dismounted patrols, weapons, rules of engagement, duties and responsibilities,” said Master Sgt. Michael Howle, the new training facility’s commandant. “The instructors who were selected are supposed to be some of the best NCOs we have here.”

Preparations for the academy have been underway for approximately five weeks, during which time the NCOs have built the facility from the ground up.

“We started this from scratch, nada, zero,” Howle said. “A month ago, we had eight empty tents. Now we have four sleep tents, three classrooms and an office tent. We’ve also set up a (squad training exercise) lane on a one-and-a-half-mile stretch of our perimeter road, and we’re having a shoothouse built.”

The classes will be small at first, with 20 Soldiers in each of the three platoons, Howle said. Subsequent classes will increase in size, with the largest number



Photo by Spc. Emily Wilsoncroft

The cadre and interpreters at the Task Force Marne noncommissioned officers academy on Forward Operating Base Kalsu rehearse their class Jan. 2. The academy will begin instructing Iraqi Army NCOs Jan. 14.

of attendees projected at 180. Six instructors will be assigned to each platoon.

“We’re building this place up for the Iraqis to take it over,” said Master Sgt. Kenneth Romine, the NCO Academy’s chief of operations. “Out of every class, we’ll take three outstanding students to stay here and teach.” Training Iraqis to take over is a driving force for the NCOs running and teaching at the academy.

“Since this project kicked off, everyone’s picked up a whole lot,” said Staff Sgt. Mark Hooks, one of the program’s instructors. “They all know that if we pull this off, we can hand it over and get out of here quicker.”

He and the other instructors realize that this goal may not come to fruition right away, but they are remaining optimistic.

“It’s going to take time to get their NCOs to the level we’re

at,” said medical instructor Sgt. 1st Class James Phillips, who volunteered to teach at the NCO Academy for that very reason. “The sooner we can get them trained to teach their own people, the sooner we can get out of here.”

During their last week of preparation before the first Iraqi Soldiers arrive, the Academy has been conducting full dress rehearsals, covering everything from physical training to classroom material.

The cadre of the Academy has been training hard to be able to effectively impart the knowledge and experience they’ve gained over their years as NCOs, and are looking forward to pointing their new students in the right direction. “This is a good step for the Iraqi Army,” said instructor Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Newton. “Once they get their NCO Corps established, they’ll be much better off.”

SPORTS & GAMES

World conquest in an afternoon

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT PAO

On Jan. 4 several Soldiers of the 3rd platoon, 127th Military Police Company, Hanau, Germany, were focused on an assault outside of their area of operations, which is normally south of Baghdad.

There were paying close attention to South American army battalions that had pushed their way across the Atlantic, into northern Africa, setting their sites on outnumbered armies in the Congo.

Despite a two-to-one advantage for the attackers, the defenders were confident in the statistical edge allotted them. But in the end, it would not be this edge, nor military tactics, or even arms and equipment that would win the field of battle, but rather the roll of the dice, three red versus two white.

Originally released in France in 1957, as “The Conquest of the World,” the game of “Risk” is still enjoying a healthy life both at home and in the battlefields of the world.

The MPs have been pumping life into the game ever since they arrived in theater 14 months ago, said Spc. Benjamin Gorman.

With their deployment at its end, and the days filled with less to do than normal, the game has enjoyed a surge in popularity. At least twice a week, a group gathers at the Forward Operating Base Kalsu Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center to try their hand



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Spc. Sheridan Redmond, Sgt. Michael Ullerich, Sgt. Matthew Wickboldt, and Spc. Benjamin Gorman (clockwise from left) all 3rd platoon, 127th Military Police Company, Hanau, Germany, play a game of Risk at the Forward Operating Base Kalsu Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center Jan. 4. Soldiers of the unit play the game at least twice a week to help build up camaraderie and pass the time.

at conquering the world.

“It’s just fun to play,” said Sgt. Michael Ullerich, a long-time player who learned to play from his father and brothers.

Just as the game has held long-term appeal to Ullerich, each individual game occupies a long span of time, an appealing factor Ullerich said when confronted with a slower work day.

“I enjoy the slow pace, the strategy, the secret alliances,” said Spc. Sheridan Redmond.

Although the slow pace and strategy of the game appeal to him, Redmond said he likes to play aggressive, staying on the offenses and capturing territories in order to meet the game’s goal of conquering the entire world, comprised of 42 territories divided

into six continents: Asia, Australia, Africa, Europe and North and South America.

Although the goal is to conquer the whole world, such aggression can backfire. In the case of a tie between the attacker’s and defender’s dice, the defender wins. Also, conquering too many territories can open up to many fronts to defend, leaving a player open for attack.

Still, attacking is a necessary means to increase the size of one’s army, as players earn reinforcements by conquering territories. If a player conquers a territory on his turn, he earns a Risk card. Once a player has a set of three cards, they can be turned in

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at the beginning of their next term for reinforcements.

Successfully conquering an entire continent and holding it for a turn also yields a set amount of reinforcements, with larger continents like Asia and North America giving more than smaller continents like Australia.

Because of this, Ullerich said he tries to start by taking over one continent, slowly building his forces up slowly and holding his territories with a strong military presence. But this is easier said than done, due to the amount of players and way in which territories are allocated at the beginning of the game. The group usually plays with the maximum number of players, six, leaving players with little starting territories and armies to command.

Additionally, the way in which territories are chosen is left to random chance. Each of the 42 Risk cards depicting a territory is shuffled and distributed amongst the players, Ullerich said.

The random nature of the shuffle and draw ensures that each game's beginning is unique. However, despite the unique beginning, all roads converge on



Photos by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Spc. Benjamin Gorman, 3rd platoon, 127th Military Police Company, Hanau, Germany, points out his plan of attack to fellow platoon mate Sgt. Michael Ullerich (with popcorn) during a game of Risk at the Forward Operating Base Kalsu Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center Jan. 4.

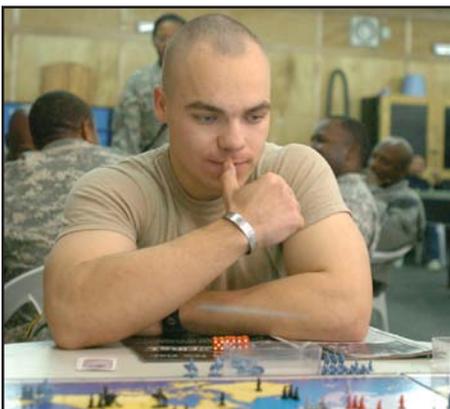
one single point: world domination. While games tend to take a few hours, Ullerich said all the games are finished.

Each game, mainly played amongst a core group of friends, Redmond said, also has the common outcome of building up the camaraderie and esprit de corps of the unit by giving the Soldiers new tales to talk about.

"It's something else to talk about," Redmond said. "It beats talking about chow."

Whether the talk is the gloating of the winners, the complaints of the losers, the "what ifs" that could have reversed fortunes, or the plans of losers to dethrone the winner, the battlefield on the board helps relieve the pressures of the battlefield outside the gate and give these Soldiers some family friendly war stories to share with their loved ones back home.

Soldiers can check out games at the MWR center. A variety of classic board games are available.



Sgt. Matthew Wickboldt, 3rd platoon, 127th MP Company, plots his next move (left) while Gorman removes some of his armies after a failed attack against Ullerich.





Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Master Sgt. Q.P. Bean, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division communications section, serenades Staff Sgt. Charlene Mason, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th BCT, at the Forward Operating Base Kalsu talent show Jan. 1. Bean sang “Always and Forever” by Luther Vandross. A former member of the U.S. Army Soldier Show, Bean walked away with 1st place, scoring a four-gigabyte iPod Nano.

Talent show showcases Army skills

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT PAO

Soldiers on Forward Operating Base Kalsu got to display their talents New Year’s Day at Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored talent show.

The show, which drew 15 contestants, was held in the dining facility in front of a crowd of over one hundred Soldiers, all cheering on their favorite acts.

The contestants, urged on by

their supporters, were trying to put forth their best in order to claim the top prize: a four-gigabyte iPod Nano.

Second place and third place received a Nikon Coolpix L10 digital camera and a multimedia speaker system respectively. All contestants received a 100-minute AT&T calling card.

At the end of the show, after tallying the scores of the contest’s three judges, Master Sgt. Q.P.

Bean, 4th BCT communications section, walked away with the prize.

The judges were Sgt. 1st Class Mildred Hill, 26th Brigade Support Battalion personnel office noncommissioned officer in charge, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Lt. Herena Mitchum, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th BCT, and Matt Abbott, a Kellogg

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Brown and Root logistics supervisor.

Although he won, Bean, who has been singing for 30 years, said he did not enter the contest just seeking a prize. Instead, the Ozark, Al., native said his motivation came from his love of singing.

“I don’t sing to compete. I just do it because I enjoy it,” he said.

The relaxed attitude helped stave off any stage fright, as did his time spent singing in the U.S. Army Soldier Show in 2002.

It was during this time that Bean also learned the importance of interacting with the crowd, stating a big part of entertaining troops is making a connection with the audience.

As part his act, singing “Always and Forever” by Luther Vandross, Bean serenaded several of the front-row females, causing them to blush and the crowd to react with load applause.

The goal of gaining crowd support was also a tactic of third place winners, Sgts. Christopher Walker, Monroe, La., and Darnell Raby, Portsmouth, Va., both HHC, 703rd BSB, 4th BCT.



Photos by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
The crowd erupts in applause after the Steve Kably, a civilian contractor, sang “Smack That” by Akon and Eminem, at the Forward Operating Base Kalsu talent show Jan. 1.

The duo, who are roommates, rapped “Walk Like a Model” by Little Caesar and D. They said they wanted to come up with a good concept that would turn heads.

The enjoyment the crowd garnered from the performance was an assurance that more shows would be put on in the future, said 1st Lt. Andrew Shadley, FOB Kalsu MWR officer.

“I’m glad everyone enjoyed it,” he said, adding the plan is to hold additional shows every few months. “The amount of talent is outstanding.”



Pfc. Luis Ochoa, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Air Assault Division, sings and plays a medley of Bob Dylan songs.

Word on the street

“What are your Superbowl predictions this year?”



“Colts vs. Greenbay; Colts win.”

Capt. Trista Mustaine
2nd BCT ePRT



“Patriots and the Bucs. I hope the Bucs win.”

1st Sgt. Tony Durham
HHC, 2-3 BTB 1st Sgt.



“I don’t know. I hope Tampa Bay. They’re my team. Of course, the Patriots will be there too.”

Capt. Shane Williams
HHC, 2nd BCT commander

JANUARY MWR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
30 Halo 2 Oldies music night	31 <i>NEW YEAR’S EVE</i>	1 <i>NEW YEAR’S Talent Show</i>	2 Salsa music night	3 Pool Dominoes	4 Movie Night Spades	5 Texas Hold’em R&B music night
6 Halo 2 Oldies music night	7 Checkers Chess	8 Monopoly Spades	9 Salsa music night	10 Pool Dominoes	11 Movie Night Spades	12 Texas Hold’em Country music night
13 Halo 2 Oldies music night	14 Ping Pong Chess	15 Checkers Spades	16 Salsa music night	17 Pool Dominoes	18 Movie Night Spades	19 Texas Hold’em R&B music night
20 Halo 2 Oldies music night	21 Checkers Chess	22 Monopoly Spades	23 Salsa music night	24 Pool Dominoes	25 Movie Night Hip hop music night	26 Texas Hold’em Country music night
27 Halo 2 Oldies music night	28 Ping Pong Chess	29 Checkers Spades	Unless otherwise stated, all events begin at 1930. Times and events are subject to change. Special events are in <i>red italics</i> .			