

# ‘Signal Day’ recognizes Air Cav efforts

*By Sgt. Alun Thomas  
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs*

CAMP TAJI, Iraq –The U.S. Army Signal Corps and its Soldiers are responsible for keeping the communications of any unit up and running.

The signal section of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade is no exception and as a show of appreciation for their efforts on the current deployment, Dec.12 was named “Signal Day” in their honor, here.

The event was initiated by leadership of the brigade’s commo section, said Master Sgt. Jeffery Jackson, from Columbus, Ga., who added that recognition for the Air Cav. signal community was overdue.

“We wanted to give them a token of gratitude for what they’ve done to make our job a little easier,” Jackson said. “We had been thinking about doing this since the halfway point of the deployment and thought it would be a good time to give back to them because they’re always working and working.”

To make the day special, Jackson helped create a unique signal coin, which was presented to all those involved in the 1st ACB communication shops.

“The cost didn’t matter, it was the thought behind it and it made it a big difference being a personal gift from myself and Maj. Burks [the brigade’s communications of-



Photo by Sgt. Alun Thomas

Sgt. Maj. Maurice Rambert, from Charleston, S.C., the G-6 sergeant major for the 1st Cavalry Division, speaks to brigade commo Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, as part of “Signal Day,” here, Dec.12.

ficer],” he said.

Seeing the looks on the Soldiers faces receiving the coins was an uplifting experience, Jackson said.

“As we presented the coins, I saw their faces lighting up; they were surprised to see it,” Jackson said. “It was the least we could give them for the job they do.”

Lt. Col. Rodney Garfield, from Portsmouth, Va., the 1st Cav. Div. communication section commander, also attended the day’s events.

“It’s times like this that we must take the time to recognize these deserving Soldiers,” said Garfield. “It’s especially humbling that the brigade S-6 is going around recognizing all the signal sup-

port specialists in the brigade, which is why I came today.

Garfield, who was joined on the visit by Sgt. Maj. Maurice Rambert, 1st Cav. Div. G-6 sergeant major, said he was impressed with the concept behind having a special day specifically for signal.

“I think this is something the Soldiers will remember and hopefully it will turn into a tradition, which is something the Signal Regiment has gotten away from,” Garfield said. “I think the 1st ACB is paving the way, and this is something I plan to put in my kitbag and take with me back to the division level.”

The visit was well received by Chief Warrant Officer Lau San Foster, from East Or-

ange, N.J., a signal support technician with 1st ACB, who said Garfield and Rambert are the best command team he has known in his 12 years of service.

“They’re always ready to lend an ear, give advice and have never turned us away or failed to take care of us,” he said.

Foster said the day was especially gratifying for some of the younger Soldiers, who deserve to be lauded.

“When I was younger we didn’t have stuff like this going on ... this helps every Soldier feel recognized, which is good for them and what they’re doing,” Foster said. “It gives them more incentive to keep working hard.”

# Air Cav setup traffic control points

by Sgt. Travis Zielinski  
ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs



TAJI, Iraq – After taking control of a small intersection, Staff Sgt. Sasaki Palik (left), from Micronesia, a squad leader in 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, begins to check the ID cards of personnel passing through here, Dec. 12. The U.S. Soldiers worked with Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 34th IA Brigade, to set up the traffic control point in support of a 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div., clearing operation.



Supporting Soldiers from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, during a traffic control point operation, Staff Sgt. Marcelo Figueroa, from Harrisburg, Pa., a working military dog handler in Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cav. Div., leads his dog, Sgt. 1st Class Lasso, during a search of a vehicle, here, Dec. 12.



TAJI, Iraq – While local Iraqi ID cards are checked and cars searched, Spc. Sean Kuttner (left) from Jacksonville, Fla., a rifleman, and Pfc. John Cummings from Boise, Idaho, a machine gunner, both with 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, provide security at a traffic control point, here, Dec. 12. The 1st ACB Soldiers partnered with the 34th Iraqi Army Brigade, to set up the TCP in support of a 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div., mission.

## W. Va. Soldiers, families fund Iraqi baby's journey for sight

By Spc. Ruth McClary  
30th HBCT PAO

BAGHDAD – At first glance she looked like a healthy baby girl, but to Noor Hassam Oudah, known as “Baby Nourah”, a glimpse was non-existent until U.S. Soldiers, family members and friends removed all obstacles to give her the chance for a glance at life.

Soldiers of Troop C, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, were invited to a small celebration, Dec. 9, hosted by Baby Nourah's family in appreciation for setting up and covering expenses for the baby's eye surgery, Nov. 15; three days after her first birthday.

The one-year-old was born blind with congenital cataracts. The condition is reversible with surgery, but out-of-reach to a family living in Baghdad. The city's hospitals lack the facilities and physicians to perform the procedure.

“I was very pleased to be able to do something for this family,” said platoon leader, 1st Lt. Jason Hickman. “They have been very hospitable. It has truly been a pleasure to be able to help Nourah. I was relieved and very pleased that everything fell into place considering all the obstacles that we faced.”

For Hickman, it seems as if things fell into place right from the start. He said that if there were ever a more perfect example of divine intervention, it happened on a dark road about five months ago when a convoy made a wrong turn and ended up in Zwaynat, a small village

southwest of Baghdad.

Baby Nourah was there visiting with her uncle, Muhameed Gharbi Sultan, who spoke with Hickman; informing him of the baby's plight for sight.

“So there we were at a place we hadn't intended on being,” said Hickman. “Wrong turn, perhaps, but that's not how I see it. My interest and contacts with the Order of Saint John, the wrong turn, her being there with her uncle instead of with her parents in Baghdad, no, not a coincidence.”

According to their website, the Order of St. John is a major international charity, accredited to the United Nations, whose organizations provide first aid, health care and support services in over 40 countries around the world. The Order's charitable work is carried out by the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. The Order of St John traces its origins back 900 years to the Knights Hospitaller from whom St John today derives its inspiration and maxims – Pro Fide Pro Utilitate Hominum, 'For the Faith and in the Service of Humanity.'

“I don't believe in the traditional sense of the word destiny, but I do believe that God puts people in certain places at certain times,” said Hickman. “Things don't happen solely by coincidence. All you have to do is look for the road signs.”

“The signs were clear; so I sent some emails and that's how we arrived here,” he said.

Once Nourah was diagnosed, Hickman emailed St. John's Jerusalem Eye Hospital, the main provider of

eye care in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, and a cause he has contributed to in the past.

Through contact with Ruth Ann Skaff, the U.S. Executive Director of the Priory of St John's, Hickman was referred to Dr. Mehyar, of the al-Khalidi Medical Center in Amman, Jordan, where the procedure was performed.

They created a plan for Nourah and Hickman emailed his family and asked for donations from Soldiers of the brigade. Family and friends from his hometown of Greenville, W. Va.; Belmont, W. Va., where he grew up; and St. Marys, W.Va., were the main contributors of the \$5,000 needed to help Nourah.

From that point on he was determined to help her, even in his darkest hour Hickman thought of Nourah.

“Lieutenant Hickman's father passed away as we were working out all the details for Nourah,” said Staff Sgt. Travers Brake, of Elkins, W. Va., who took over the campaign while Hickman was on emergency leave. “He asked for the guys in the platoon to give donations to Nourah in lieu of sending flowers. Now that's special.”

Many emails and meetings later led to the celebration where Hickman, who didn't get a good look at Nourah that first night, finally was able to hold the baby he introduced to the brigade and a lot of caring people back in West Virginia.

Dressed in a plush pink puppy dog snow suit, accessorizing a yellow and pink

hat and little yellow rimmed glasses, baby Nourah made her rounds at the celebration; oblivious to her stardom. She looked around, waved and stared at some of the people instrumental in giving her such a special gift.

Nourah's paternal grandfather, Oudah Ghardi Sultan al-Jubori, said she has to go back for a check-up in a month and she has to wear glasses for five years; a small sacrifice for a lifetime of imagery.

“We are very grateful to you,” said al Jubori. “At one time [Iraqi's and U.S. Soldiers] could not sit and talk like this [without wearing armored vest and helmets], now we are very close. You should visit more. Please come back and visit before you go back to the states.”

Hickman, Brake and the elders of Nourah's family shared a traditional Iraqi meal together, drank chai tea and talked late into the evening; laughing and joking like old-time acquaintances.

Since the operation, family members said she crawls, grabs for things and follows hands, fingers and objects that are placed in front of her. Baby Nourah, with her big pouty cheeks and little cherry lips, now quietly absorbs her surroundings and responds at will.

“The Lord may not push you around the board like a pawn, but every now and again he puts you where he wants you,” said Hickman. “We were supposed to end up in Zwaynat that night, it was just up to us what we were going to do when we got there.”

## On This Day In History

December 14, 1918

### New king renounces Finnish throne

In the latest bump on Finland's rocky road from Swedish and Russian duchy to independent nation, the newly-crowned Frederick, German-born and the brother-in-law of Kaiser Wilhelm II, renounces the Finnish throne after barely two months.

After Finland declared its independence from Russia in December 1917, a struggle for power began within the country. While government forces worked to disarm and expel the remaining Russian troops, the socialist Red Guard rebelled in late January 1918, seeking to spread a Bolshevik-inspired revolution. The clash between the Reds and the Whites, as government troops were known, ended in victory by the government, due in part to the assistance of German troops sent by the Kaiser to southern Finland.

In an effort to reestablish order in the form of monarchical government, conservative forces, in league with the Germans, gave the throne to Frederick, a German prince, in October 1918. His coronation was seen as a confirmation of the close relations between Finland and Germany. After the war ended on November 11, however, the choice of Frederick as a ruler no longer seemed viable. The Kaiser had abdicated two days earlier, and Germany itself was no longer a monarchy. Moreover, it seemed unlikely that the triumphant Allied powers would look kindly upon a German prince on the throne in Finland. In light of these considerations, Frederick abdicated on December 14, leaving the way clear for the Finnish parliament to adopt a new republican constitution in July of the following year.

## MND-B Pic of the day



Photo by Sgt. Mary Phillips, 30th HBCT PAO

**BAGHDAD** - Soldiers of Battery A, 113th Field Artillery, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team work together to roll up a heavy electric cable at Joint Security Station Copper, south of Baghdad, Dec. 10. Turning off the power was one of the last things the Soldiers did before signing over the property to the Government of Iraq. The Soldiers had lived at the JSS for the past seven months.

## FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



### DID YOU KNOW?

Some people like to eat frogs' legs. Chuck Norris likes to eat lizard legs. Hence, snakes.

## Quote For Today

"Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently."

-Henry Ford-

### Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today  
68° F | 51° F



Tomorrow  
68° F | 50° F



Wednesday  
69° F | 53° F

### TRIVIA TIME!!

Which was the first war in which one jet plane shot down another?

Last Issue's Answer: HENRY VII

## Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

### MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD -- The Cav Round-Up is a three minute radio newscast from Baghdad covering military units and events across Multi-National Division -- Baghdad.

For this newscast please contact the Media Relations

Staff with DVIDS at 678-421-6612 or email news@dvidsshub.net

Today's Cav-Round-Up #218 was produced by SFC Brian Scott, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

this newscast includes the following stories:

1. One doctor volunteers his spare time at a troop clinic.

2.Sailor Colette Culpeper comes ashore to work with Army.

<http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/generals/each/&table=audio&query=>

Cav+Round-Up&typeCheck out other MND-B products, such as the weekly First Team Update video news program, and the latest print stories at 1st Cavalry Division's homepage:

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	4	2	8					
	9		3	6		7		
1			4		2	8		5
4		9			5		6	
6	3						1	7
	7		2			5		9
2		6	1		7			3
		7		9	8		5	
				3	1	7		

### Trigger's Teasers

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them.

### Yesterday's Answers

5	4	6	1	2	3	7	8	9
8	7	9	6	5	4	3	2	1
2	3	1	8	7	9	4	5	6
3	5	4	9	6	1	2	7	8
9	2	8	4	3	7	6	1	5
1	6	7	2	8	5	9	3	4
4	8	5	7	9	2	1	6	3
7	9	3	5	1	6	8	4	2
6	1	2	3	4	8	5	9	7



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