

# High school to flight school

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The United States Army is one place where a 20-year-old is allowed to fly one of the most advanced helicopters in the world.

Joining the Army as a teenager, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Aaron Fouquette was going to find a way to take advantage of this little know fact.

“I was always fascinated with flying when I was a little kid, so I knew I wanted get into aviation and fly in some shape or form,” said Fouquette, an AH-64D Apache attack helicopter instructor pilot with 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

“I grew up on a naval base and my next door neighbor was an Army recruiter,” said the Jacksonville, Fla., native. “He was interested in getting me to join the Army and showed me the high school to flight school program.”

“A lot of people don’t even know about the program,” said Fouquette. “I didn’t know about it either; I always thought that I had to go to college and then go to flight school – if I was lucky enough to get selected to go to flight school.”

The recruiter took the time to set up the warrant officer packet, which includes the interviews, flight physicals and the tests, to get into the Army flight school, he said.

Fouquette was originally as-

signed to fly the OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter, but after a little persistence he was able to get into the AH-64A Apache attack helicopter training course.

With a combination of being isolated in the crew station, looking through the top of the canopy while flying forward and the instructor’s aggressive flying style – at 20 years old – it became clear that flying an Apache was the right choice, said Fouquette.

“At the time, I had pretty much gotten what I wanted; I had [gotten] into aviation and I was flying one of the most advanced aircraft, at least helicopter-wise, in the world,” said Fouquette. “To be honest, I thought I was pretty good at flying until I got to my first unit.”

In 2003, at 21 years old, and only a couple months out of flight school, Fouquett deployed for the first time. The only responsibilities he had as a front-seat pilot were operating the radios and weapons systems.

Now, at the age of 27, with more than 36 months of combat experience from Operation Iraqi Freedom under his belt, his role has changed and Fouquette is now molding the young aviators into experienced pilots.

“I’m now an instructor pilot, air mission commander [and] mission briefer, and looking at peers that are 21 now, I definitely see a difference in the maturity level,” said Fouquette. “Basically I am in charge of



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski

Spc. Jonathan Moore, from Columbus, Ga., an AH-64D Apache attack helicopter crew chief in 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, stands by to launch Chief Warrant Officer 3 Aaron Fouquette (backseat), from Jacksonville, Fla., and CW2 John Munson (front seat), from Lyons, N.Y., here, Dec. 10.

our junior aviators and their upbringing. I guess with responsibility comes maturity.”

“I was going to get out of the military after my second deployment,” said Fouquette. “I just couldn’t do it though; I really enjoy flying this aircraft, being with the people I am currently with and I don’t have any regrets in anything I’ve done.”

Because of Fouquette’s determination to become an aviator and the Army route he decided to take, the feeling of success came to him at an early age.

“Early on it was interesting to return home and see friends just hanging out or just starting college and figuring out what they wanted to do,” said Fouquette. “I was already set up in a career, moving forward with

flight progression and being set up financially. I felt like I was ahead of the program in regards to that.”

“I think I have been rather successful since an early age in doing what I love – and that is flying,” said Fouquette. “Let alone flying a Longbow Apache, which is by far the most advanced helicopter in the world.”

and commissioned officers a chance to work on their troop leading procedures.

With the help of the men of 4th ADAR, the 6th IA Division will be one step closer to self-reliance as American forces prepare for a complete transition. Though their mission may seem behind-the-scenes, the MiTT Soldiers are proud of the job they are doing here.

# Dragons, IA knock and talk in Hor al-Bash

**By Pfc. Adam Halleck**  
1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.



BAGHDAD – Lakeland, Tenn. native, 1st Lt. Patrick Muldoon, a platoon leader assigned to Battery A, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, speaks to a local sheik during a knock and talk mission in Hor al-Bash, Dec. 11.



BAGHDAD – Palli, a military working dog, and handler, Air Force Staff Sgt. Terry Mace Jr., search for weapons caches in the surrounding area of a neighborhood in Hor al-Bash, Dec. 11.



BAGHDAD – Mansfield, Texas native, Capt. Robert Reece (left), commander of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st BCT, 1st Cavalry, discusses a mission plan with Portland, Maine native, Sgt. Robert Fournier, during a knock and talk mission in Hor al-Bash, Dec. 11.

# Soldiers bring joy to Iraqi children in need

**By Spc. Kelly LeCompte**

*30th HBCT PAO, MND-B*

BAGHDAD – A man pulls toys from a giant bag, while his comrades try to keep the growing crowd of excited children in an orderly line as they wait their turn.

It's December, but the temperature is nearly 60 degrees. Instead of a wintry-white snow, the mostly bare little feet run across dusty and muddy earth towards men wearing camouflage and smiles.

Two Soldiers of Company B, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, organized the surprise toy delivery for children living just outside the walls of Forward Operating Base Falcon in southern Baghdad, where the Smithfield-based unit is serving.

Spc. Michael Petro, an infantryman, said he had the idea to start collecting goodies for the children after driving past their neighborhood to and from missions in the Baghdad area.

"It's one of the poorest areas that we drive through," Petro, of West Chester, Pa., said. "Every day that we drive through that area the kids come out running and waving... there's plenty of kids and families that have a lot less than we do."

Spc. Garrett Manis, a fellow infantryman, said he had similar sentiments about the area and wanted to help.

"We drive by that area all the time, and they're frequently bare footed... and they always run out, waving their hands, hoping we'll stop and give them something; and you think, 'That's really not a whole lot to do,' and it could potentially have a tremendous impact in some kid's life," Manis, of Chapel Hill, N.C., said. Petro said it all started with an email.

"I just sent my mom an email just basically saying, 'Instead of sending me stuff, send stuff for the kids,' and then she forwarded that along, and that got forwarded along and it was really just an avalanche. What was originally intended to be just a few boxes here and there turned into an [a two-and-a-half ton cargo vehicle] full of clothes and school supplies and toys."

The Soldiers said the idea spread across the home front, growing bigger than they ever imagined.

"People at home really went above and beyond what I had ever envisioned," Petro said. "Going down to mail-call every day and five more boxes came in, seven more



Photo by Spc. Kelly LeCompte  
BAGHDAD – Spc. Michael Petro (right), of West Chester, Pa., hands a bag of toys and school supplies to a child and father near Forward Operating Base Falcon, in southern Baghdad, as fellow Company B, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion Soldiers manage the growing crowd of children waiting their turn in the hand out, Dec. 12.

boxes came in, eight more boxes came in; it was really kind of unbelievable how it snowballed."

"My aunt did a drive; she's an administrative assistant at Durham Academy," Manis said. "She sent like ten boxes or so that they collected from the school. I got a lot from all over. It kind of just took off, it started as just an idea to get a few things together."

The shipments started arriving in September, and the duo collected the boxes in a larger storage

room in their barracks, waiting for the chance to hand it all out. Petro said because of the company's busy mission schedule, it took a while before they had a chance to make the stop. After much anticipation, they finally got their chance; just in time for the Christmas holiday. "I was actually hoping to do it a lot sooner, but just because of our mission schedule and the way things worked out, it happened to be closer to the holidays, which is kind of nice," Petro said.

## On This Day In History

December 15, 1969

### Nixon announces additional U.S. troop withdrawals

President Richard Nixon announces that 50,000 additional U.S. troops will be pulled out of South Vietnam by April 15, 1970. This was the third reduction since the June Midway conference, when Nixon announced his Vietnamization program.

Under the Vietnamization program, the South Vietnamese forces would receive intensified training and new equipment so they could gradually assume overall responsibility for the war. Concurrent with this effort, Nixon announced that he would begin to bring U.S. troops home. This third increment would bring the total reductions to 115,000. By January 1972, there were only around 70,000 U.S. troops left in South Vietnam.

Noting the steady withdrawal of American forces, the North Vietnamese decided to launch a massive invasion of South Vietnam in March 1972. The South Vietnamese forces, supported by American advisers and U.S. airpower, reeled under the onslaught but ultimately prevailed, holding on despite overwhelming odds. After much posturing and many lengthy negotiations (with additional "motivation" contributed by Nixon's bombing of North Vietnam in December 1972), National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger and his North Vietnamese counterpart, Le Duc Tho, hammered out a peace agreement. A cease-fire went into effect on January 27, 1973.

The war was over for the United States, but fighting soon resumed between North and South Vietnam. The South Vietnamese held out for nearly two years, but succumbed when the United States cut off all military support. When the North Vietnamese launched a new offensive in March 1975, South Vietnam fell in just 55 days.

## MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Spc. Daniel Schneider, MND-B PAO  
BAGHDAD – A military policeman (right) from the 6th Iraqi Army Division tries to fend off blows from 1st Lt. Nick Salinas using his newly acquired combatives skills, Dec. 9, at Contingency Operating Location Constitution, here. Salinas, a Torrance, Calif., native, is the officer in charge of the Military Transition Team tasked to give the Iraqi soldiers a two-day block of instruction on Army combatives.

## FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS

### DID YOU KNOW?

Nagasaki never had a bomb dropped on it. Chuck Norris jumped out of a plane and punched the ground.



# Quote For Today

"Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising up every time we fail."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson -

## Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today  
68° F | 48° F



Tomorrow  
69° F | 59° F



Thursday  
69° F | 51° F

## TRIVIA TIME!!

Ohio city was the 1995 Bosnian peace accord signed in?

Last Issue's Answer: The Korean War

# 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 e-mail news@dvidshub.net.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 219 was produced by SFC Brian Scott, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. U.S. and Iraqi engineers raise the frame work on a Joint Operation Center, bringing under one roof the resources of the Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police

Forces and the Soldiers of the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. Interview with Maj. Michael Harding, 1434th Engineer Company.

2. Soldiers from the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team and the Iraqi Federal Police team up to deliver supplies to an Iraqi school in the western Rashid district of Baghdad.

<http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/generalsearch/php&table=audio&query=Cav+Round->

Check out other MND-B products, such as the weekly First Team Update video news program, and the latest print stories at the 1st Cavalry Division's homepage: [www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/](http://www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/)

# Trigger's Teasers

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

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 digit 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection must include all digit 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 in.

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



## Multi-National Division-Baghdad

Public Affairs Office

**Commanding General:**

Maj. Gen. Daniel Bolger

**Public Affairs Officer:**

Lt. Col. Philip Smith

**Public Affairs Chief:**

Master Sgt. Nicholas Conner

### Editor:

Pfc. Debrah Sanders

### Staff Writers:

- Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen
- Staff Sgt. Nathan Hoskins
- Staff Sgt. April Mota
- Sgt. Samantha Beuterbaugh
- Sgt. Bryce Dubee
- Sgt. Travis Zielinski
- Spc. Kelly LeCompte
- Spc. Dainel Scheider
- Pfc. Adam Halleck

The Daily Charge is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Daily Charge are not official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of the Army, or the 1st Cavalry Division. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, the 1st Cavalry Division, or the Daily Charge of the products and services advertised.

All editorial content of the Daily Charge is prepared, edited, provided and approved by Multi-National Division-Baghdad Public Affairs Office.

Do you have a story to share? The Daily Charge welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters, and photos from readers. Submissions are to be sent to the Public Affairs NCOIC [nicholas.conner@mnd-b.army.mil](mailto:nicholas.conner@mnd-b.army.mil) and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The Daily Charge reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

For further information on deadlines, questions, comments or a request to be on our distribution list, email the Editor at [debrah.sanders@mnd-b.army.mil](mailto:debrah.sanders@mnd-b.army.mil)