

Medic treats himself after being shot by sniper

By Sgt. Jennie Burrett
2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn.
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BAGHDAD—“I was probably two feet from my door of my truck when I heard gun fire and it felt like someone just cracked me in the right shoulder blade with a hammer,” said Spc. Matthew Mortensen, of Olathe, Kan.

The combat medic, with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, was part of a presence patrol conducting a neighborhood search, Dec. 10, in an area historically known for weapons caches, rockets and mortars.

As the patrol walked the streets, a mounted element went from check point to check point providing security for them. Having reached the last check point, Staff Sgt. Manoj Prasad, of Watertown, N.Y., and Mortensen dismounted to maneuver the trucks into a static security posture, when shots were fired.

“I saw a bullet hole in his shirt, and when I cut it open all I could see was blood,” said Prasad. “I looked for an exit wound and couldn’t find one.”

Being the medic on scene, Mortensen provided first aid care to himself after he was injured until he reached the Joint Security Station Loyalty aid station. Combat medics are responsible for providing first aid and frontline trauma care on the battlefield with the primary role



Photo by Sgt. Jennie Burrett

Spc. Matthew Mortensen (center), of Olathe, Kan., a combat medic with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, shows high spirits, with Pfc. Juan Ortega (left), of Belen, N.M., and Pfc. Jorge Cruz, of Waterbury, Conn., after he was shot in the shoulder by sniper fire while on a presence patrol in Baghdad, Dec. 10.

to provide medical treatment to wounded soldiers.

“After I was shot, I had my platoon sergeant examine me for a wound and he found one on my right shoulder blade,” said Mortensen. “Then I jumped into the truck, threw off my kit because I couldn’t reach my right side with my kit on. After I took it off, I started cleaning up some of the blood with gauze then I used the package for the gauze and created a pressure dressing over the wound just in case it penetrated my chest cavity. I didn’t know what happened to the bullet so that was the only thing I was really worried

about.”

After the initial treatment, Mortensen was medically evacuated to another JSS. Mortensen kept his composure throughout the event and was able to provide Prasad with the proper medevac procedures for entering the JSS.

The day following the incident, Mortensen was awarded a Purple Heart and a Combat Medical badge while he was in the hospital at Victory Base Complex.

The Purple Heart is awarded to those who have been wounded or killed while serving on or after April 5, 1917 with the U.S. military. The Combat Medical Badge

is a decoration of the United States Army which was first created in January 1945. The badge is awarded to any member of the Army Medical Department, pay grade Colonel or below, who are assigned or attached to a medical unit (company or smaller size) which provides medical support to a ground combat arms unit during any period in which the unit was engaged in active ground combat.

Mortensen was sent back to the United States for rehabilitation and recuperation. After spending a month back in the States, he anticipates he will return to his platoon in Iraq sometime in February.

Cav band prepares for final performance

By Sgt. Samantha Beuterbaugh
MND-B PAO



BAGHDAD – Members of the 1st Cavalry Division's rock band horn section perform a Christmas concert, Dec. 22, at the division chapel as a special thanks to the Division Special Troops Battalion for all of the support provided throughout the band's deployment.



BAGHDAD – 1st Cavalry Division's rock band drummer, Staff Sgt. Kristine Pittman, plays in a holiday concert, Dec. 22, at the division chapel as a special thanks to the Division Special Troops Battalion for all of the support provided throughout the band's deployment.



BAGHDAD – Specialists Phil Terrell and David Sturch, trumpet players in the 1st Cavalry Division's rock band, perform in a holiday concert, Dec. 22, day at the division chapel on as a special thanks to the Division Special Troops Battalion for all of the support provided throughout the band's deployment.

Mail clerks act as Santa's little helpers

By Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD – If your local mail clerks look a little stressed or overworked during this holiday season, they have good reason to be.

With the holiday season here, Soldiers in Iraq receive more care packages than any other time of year, and Camp Liberty is no different.

This is great for the Soldiers of Multi-National Division – Baghdad, but it also causes a great deal of work for mail clerks.

Spc. Krystal Juarez, a mail clerk assigned to Company B, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, estimates that she delivers about twice as much mail daily during the holiday season. This has been going on since around the end of November and shows no sign of slowing down.

“It hasn’t stopped,” Juarez said.

Most of the mail received recently has been care packages, whether from individuals’ families or non-profit companies like the United Service Organizations. Some companies even send care packages directly to the mail room, the contents of which are distributed to any Soldier who comes into the mail room.

Juarez said she wants to make sure everybody gets something, and having a box full of items like candy and “thank you” cards seemed like a good way to hand things out.

The Karkh Area Command Military Transition Team receives more care packages than any other unit this time of year. Part of their mission involves handing out care-package items to Iraqi children and their families, which several companies in the U.S.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen

First Lt. Ethan Clements (right), of the 17th Fires Brigade, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division picks up a care package from the division mail room at Camp Liberty, while Spc. Krystal Juarez, spreads holiday cheer, Dec. 23.

have been more than happy to assist with by shipping food, clothing and toys.

The combination of official mail, care packages, medical supplies and Army Direct Ordering items makes for a big enough work load, as is. However, this is only part of it as the 1st Armored Division prepares to arrive in Iraq.

Spc. Laura Baily, a mail clerk assigned to Company A, said the holiday rush is nothing she didn’t expect, but with the addition of the incoming unit’s mail coming earlier than they had hoped, there has been more to carry and sort through.

With her fellow service members in mind, Juarez helped start a program she calls “Soldier to Soldier” to assist troops at remote locations who do not receive mail as often as those on the main bases.

Bases like Contingency Operating Station Hammer, for example, only receive their personal mail when their

shipping container is full, due to the manpower and time it takes to deliver bulk mail over great distances.

Juarez, with help from Spc. Ashley Callines, Spc. Murphy Wakefield and Spc. Ryann Gilmore, has asked division staff and unit members who find themselves with an abundance of care package items to donate to the Soldier to Soldier program. This way, she hopes, the shipping containers will fill up faster, and Soldiers can receive their personal mail more often.

During the excitement of opening care packages, Juarez and Baily want to ensure Soldiers still remember to protect their personal information. Tear mailing labels off of packages and burn them, do not just throw them in the trash.

Next time you’re opening a care package during this holiday season, remember there are Soldiers working very hard to ensure that package made it to you.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen

Spc. Krystal Juarez, a mail clerk assigned to Company A, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, sorts letters during the holiday rush in the division mail room on Camp Liberty, Dec. 23. According to Juarez, daily mail has nearly doubled since around the end of November.

On This Day In History

December 25, 1996

Young JonBenet Ramsey is murdered

Six-year-old JonBenet Ramsey is killed in her Boulder, Colorado, home. John and Patsy Ramsey, her parents, called police at 5:52 the following morning to report that their daughter was missing. Although police found a ransom note demanding \$118,000, the money would never be necessary, because JonBenet's body was found under a blanket in the basement that afternoon. The crime soon became a national sensation.

JonBenet, who had been beaten and strangled, was found with tape over her mouth and her hands tied together with a cord. There were also some signs of sexual assault. However, Boulder detectives did a poor job of preserving the evidence and actually allowed John Ramsey to disrupt the crime scene by removing his daughter's body from the basement.

With no signs of an intruder, suspicion quickly fell on JonBenet's parents. The ransom note seemed suspicious to authorities. Not only did the strangely specific amount of the ransom--\$118,000--match the exact amount of John Ramsey's bonus from his employer, the paper that the ransom note had been written on paper found in the Ramsey home. The note also seemed to be unusually wordy.

For the curious public, the fact that John and Patsy Ramsey failed to cooperate with the investigation fueled speculation about their guilt. In addition, JonBenet's active participation in beauty pageants, which required her to wear heavy makeup and sophisticated clothing, was widely considered to be inappropriate.

The investigation into JonBenet's murder continued for more than two years. But in October 1999, the grand jury hearing evidence in the case was finally dismissed with no recommendation for filing charges.

MND-B Pic of the day!



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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Learning techniques to spraying safety foam as part of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training, Spc. Forest Johnson, from Reno, Nev., the CBRN noncommissioned officer in charge for 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, sprays down vehicles in a scrap metal yard, here, Dec. 22.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Those aren't credits that roll after Walker Texas Ranger. It is actually a list of fatalities that occurred during the making of the episode.

Quote For Today

“He has honor if he holds himself to an ideal of conduct though it is inconvenient, unprofitable, or dangerous to do so.”

- Walter Lippmann -

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
71° F | 50° F



Tomorrow
68° F | 51° F



Sunday
69° F | 50° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

Along with the French, which American division held the extreme western end of the Coalition battle line when the attack opened on it during the first gulf war?

Last Issue's Answer: 16

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 # 226 was produced by SFC Brian Scott, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Soldiers from the 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division work on becoming better husbands with the

“Five Languages of Love.”

Interview with Chaplain Chester Olsen, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion.

2. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Brigade receive a class from AH-64 pilots on the proper way to call for air support. <http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general>

search/ppphp&table=audio&query=Cav+Round-Up&type

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/

Trigger's Tease

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

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. The more squares that are known the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in the squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday's Answers

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



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The **Daily Charge** welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers.

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