

## Soldiers help Iraqi boy get a new smile

By Sgt. Mary Phillips  
30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

BAGHDAD - From behind his father, a 3-year-old Abdullah plays peek-a-boo with Soldiers of 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

The Soldiers are there to check on the child who is recovering from a recent cleft palate surgery; a surgery that happened thanks in part to the efforts of the Soldiers there to see him.

It all started with a trip to the trash dump.

Second Lt. Charles Duggan said he visits the area south of Baghdad regularly while on missions with his Soldiers.

“I was talking to the people there and I asked who the sheik was,” said Duggan, of Jacksonville, N.C. “I went to talk to him, and this guy brought his kid and showed me his kid.”

Arhim Shakban’s son, Abdullah, was born with a cleft palate, a birth defect that happens when a child’s mouth does not develop properly during pregnancy.

“It’s one thing that I felt like I was in control of, that I could help out,” said Duggan. “[Arhim] did not ask me specifically about his son, but his son was there and I wanted to help his son. I had to act.”

Duggan got on the internet after that first meeting with Abdullah and tried to find a

way to help the boy. The first organization he contacted did not have doctors in the area that would be able to help him, but they referred him to a group who could.

“They referred me to Smile Train,” said Duggan. “Smile Train told me they had an associate who worked in the area.”

Duggan was soon emailing Dr. Ahmed Nawres, a plastic surgeon working in Babylon, south of Baghdad.

“[Dr. Nawres] told me he’d be happy to do the surgery on any child that I found free of charge,” said Duggan.

Dr. Nawres has worked with Smile Train since 2006 and has completed more than 150 cleft palate surgeries, averaging three per week. Abdullah received his surgery Dec. 14.

Duggan and the other Soldiers in his platoon were excited to visit the boy, and they said they were happy to be able to help Abdullah.

“I did this because it was the right thing to do,” said Duggan. “It was only a small effort on my part but I am glad to do what I can to make this wonderful event possible.”

“We’re just glad to be able to help,” said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Boyette, of Southern Pines, N.C.

Abdullah’s father was the happiest of all.

“Every day I would worry



Photo by Sgt. Mary Phillips

BAGHDAD - Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Boyette, a platoon sergeant, receives a kiss from 3-year-old Abdullah, in the boy’s home, south of Baghdad, Dec. 23.

about it and not know what to do,” said Arhim. “He would not want to go outside with the kids, he stayed inside. Now he opens the door and plays with everyone. He can feel that something is different now. It goes away and he looked in the mirror and said, ‘I look cute now’ after the surgery.”

The father smiled as he watched Abdullah laughing and playing with the Sol-

diers. Boyette showed him how to turn on and off the light on his helmet and Abdullah was eventually taking it off of the Soldiers head, and putting it on his own. The boy kissed the Soldiers and made his way around the room, playing laughing and smiling.

“There are not enough words in any language to express how happy I am feeling right now,” Arhim said.

# Soldiers “Garryowen” got talent

By 1st Lt. Josh Risher

1BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B



BAGHDAD – Staff Sgt. Jason Feaga, a tracked vehicle mechanic from Modesto, Calif., performs a medley of hit songs by the band “Metallica” during a talent show at Joint Security Station Istiqlaal, Dec. 21.



BAGHDAD – Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, perform the hit Christmas song, “Feliz Navidad”, as the final act in a Squadron talent show at Joint Security Station Istiqlaal, Dec. 21.



BAGHDAD – Sgt. Taurus “Mack” McDaniel, a cavalry scout from Kountze, Texas, performs his original song, “Mr. Krashtown”, during his solo act in a talent show at Joint Security Station Istiqlaal, Dec. 21.



BAGHDAD – Cpl. Thomas “Yung Capp” Taylor, a human resources specialist from native Sgt. Marchello “Squeezie” Jimerson, a cavalry scout, perform their original song, “Monster”, during their Squadron talent show at Joint Security Station Istiqlaal, Dec. 21.

# 'Good goals' keep Soldier on track

By Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Scott  
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD – Spc. Seth Crowell, a nuclear, biological, chemical operations specialist assigned to Company A, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, has been recognized by members of his command for his ability to step outside the traditional role of an NBC specialist, and to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of military necessity.

Crowell, a native of Forestville, N.Y., who started his military career in the Army Reserve, chose to go active duty a little over a year ago. Shortly after going active, he deployed to Iraq in January 2009, with the 1st Cavalry Division. His decision to join the military, he said, was based on trying to straighten out his life.

“I was looking for something different,” said Crowell.

It seems to have been a good choice.

“Spec. Crowell has exceeded our expectations,” said Capt. Robert Texter, commander of Co. A, from Philadelphia, Pa.

According to Texter, Crowell has the ability to remain flexible and because of this, was assigned as the personnel status report manager, a job which requires Crowell to track over 450 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen throughout the MND-B area.

“He is working well outside of his [military operations specialty]. He has a lot of knowledge – he keeps so much knowledge about individuals,” said Texter.

Additionally, Crowell was in charge of issuing out and tracking over 142,000 rounds of ammunition for various weapons systems, a role that



Spec. Seth Crowell, a nuclear, biological, and chemical operations specialist from Forestville, N.Y., carries a stack of chemical masks into a storage container, here, Dec. 22.



Spec. Seth Crowell (left), a nuclear, biological, and chemical operations specialist from Forestville, N.Y., demonstrates to Sgt. James Alfred, a native of Uncasville, Conn., how to replace a head-harness strap on a chemical mask, here, Dec. 22.

some might find surprising for a specialist with only two years of experience in the Army.

“He is very squared away, very reliable,” said Sgt. Orianna Martinez, a native of Forest City, N. C., the company’s supply sergeant and Crowell’s former supervisor.

But winning awards isn’t the only area in which Crowell excels. He seems to be an all-around good Soldier.

“He has a [physical fitness] score of 290, he shoots expert on the M16, and he has qualified at the level 1 Army combatives course,” said Sgt. James Alfred, from Uncasville, Conn., the training non-commissioned officer in charge for Co. A, and

Crowell’s current supervisor.

“He has good goals. He’s constantly trying to improve upon himself,” said Alfred.

While Crowell does not currently see himself as a career active duty Soldier, the 22 year-old says he has tentative plans to return to the Army Reserve once this enlistment is over. Additionally, he is planning to pursue a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice, which he has been working on throughout this deployment through the Army Military University online.

Crowell also said he is looking forward to reuniting with his fiancée, whom he plans to marry, after returning to the states.

## On This Day In History

December 26, 2004

### Tsunami wreaks havoc on Southeast Asia

On the day after Christmas in 2004, a massive undersea earthquake occurs just off the coast of Indonesia at a few minutes before 8 a.m. local time. With a magnitude of 9.3, the quake was the most powerful of the last 40 years and the second largest earthquake in recorded history. It set off a deadly tsunami that, in the final estimate, killed an estimated 230,000 people and wreaked untold devastation on a wide swath of coastline from Somalia on the east African coast to Sumatra in Southeast Asia.

It is estimated that the quake caused the sea bed of the Indian Ocean to rise almost 10 feet, causing seven cubic miles of water to be displaced. The resulting tsunami (from the Japanese words for "harbor" and "waves") sent waves of up to 100 feet crashing into the shores of the Indian Ocean, hitting Somalia, Indonesia, Sumatra, Sri Lanka, southern India, and Thailand, and flooding a series of islands, including the Maldives.

Despite scientists reporting the quake about 15 minutes after it struck, there was no tsunami warning system in place in the Indian Ocean with which to track possible tsunamis.

Within 30 minutes, the tsunami had hit Sumatra and, within two hours, it had battered the coasts of Thailand, Sri Lanka, and southern India. Despite the time lag, the vast majority of victims had no idea that the tsunami was on the way.

Although initial news reports severely underestimated the death toll, it became clear within days that the tsunami had created a disaster of unprecedented proportions--killing an estimated 230,000 people and leaving more than a million homeless. Thousands--most likely swept out to sea.

## MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan, 30th HBCT PAO

BAGHDAD-- Soldiers of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team sing during a candlelight Christmas service at Forward Operating Base Falcon's chapel, Dec. 24. The evening service ends with one candle lighting the all the others in the chapel.

## FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



### DID YOU KNOW?

There are four legal methods of execution in the United States: lethal injection, gas chamber, electric chair and Chuck Norris.

# Quote For Today

“Conscience is the root of all true courage; if a man would be brave let him obey his conscience.”

- James Freeman Clarke -

## Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today  
69° F | 51° F



Tomorrow  
68° F | 50° F



Monday  
69° F | 53° F

## TRIVIA TIME!!

Who was the first Soldier killed in the Vietnam War?

Last Issue's Answer: 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

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

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. A Soldier from the 1st Cavalry Division's rock band shows the ability to carry more than just his

weapon, but a tune as well. Interview with Spc. Christopher Rettig, 1st Cav. Div. Band, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Aaron Graff, 1st Cav. Div. Band.

2. With the holiday season here, mail clerks sort and pass out more mail than any other time of the year. <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/](http://www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/)

# Trigger's Tease

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

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

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



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