

Troops raise money for N.C. Boy Scouts

By Spc. Ruth McClary
30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

BAGHDAD –Soldiers counted down the minutes to Christmas as they tallied donated pogs, small circular paper disks used at the Post Exchange instead of coins, for a North Carolina Boy Scout Troop, Dec. 24.

Spc. Rob Campbell, with 230th Brigade Support Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, launched the “Pogs for Presents” campaign by placing gift wrapped boxes for pog donations around Forward Operating Base Falcon, here, to support his former Boy Scouts Troop as they raise money for the needy.

“I’m like Santa Claus ringing a bell,” said Campbell. “Only I can’t ring a bell and [the Army] won’t let me wear a Santa suit.”

Troop 223, located in Campbell’s hometown of Southern Pines, N.C., helps needy families by collecting canned goods during the Christmas holiday season.

“I can’t collect can goods, but I can collect money to get the stuff that’s not put in the bins,” said Campbell. “When I was a boy scout it was a big deal for us.”

The former Eagle Scout came up with the idea when he realized that many Soldiers did not value the paper coins. He vowed to match the donations dollar for dollar thinking he would raise around \$100.

“A lot of [Soldiers] have

stacks of [pogs] and unfortunately people don’t really see them as money,” said Campbell. “Everybody’s getting ready to go home and they are packing up and finding them everywhere.”

Campbell tore open the display boxes like a kid on Christmas morning; pouring out a around \$214 worth of pogs. The total count was a little more than \$265, after adding in cash donations from Soldiers that forgot to bring pog donations the day of the count.

“I will go to [the Army Air Force Exchange Service] to [cash-in] the pogs on Christmas and then I will call my wife and tell her to write a check,” said Campbell.

According to Yvonne Ward, AAFES assistant team leader, the pogs can be exchanged at any AAFES location abroad or in the states. The cardboard coins, which display photos of Soldiers of all branches, were adopted in 2002 due to high shipping rates charged on the weight of metal coins.

“It saves taxpayers hundreds of dollars and Soldiers can cash them in or take them home for souvenirs,” said Ward.

“I don’t know if it will be a problem cashing them in but I will send the donation regardless,” said Campbell referring to the large amount of pogs donated.

Campbell revealed one Secret Santa when he mentioned that Staff Sgt. Stephanie Brasington, of Stafford, Va., gave a dona-

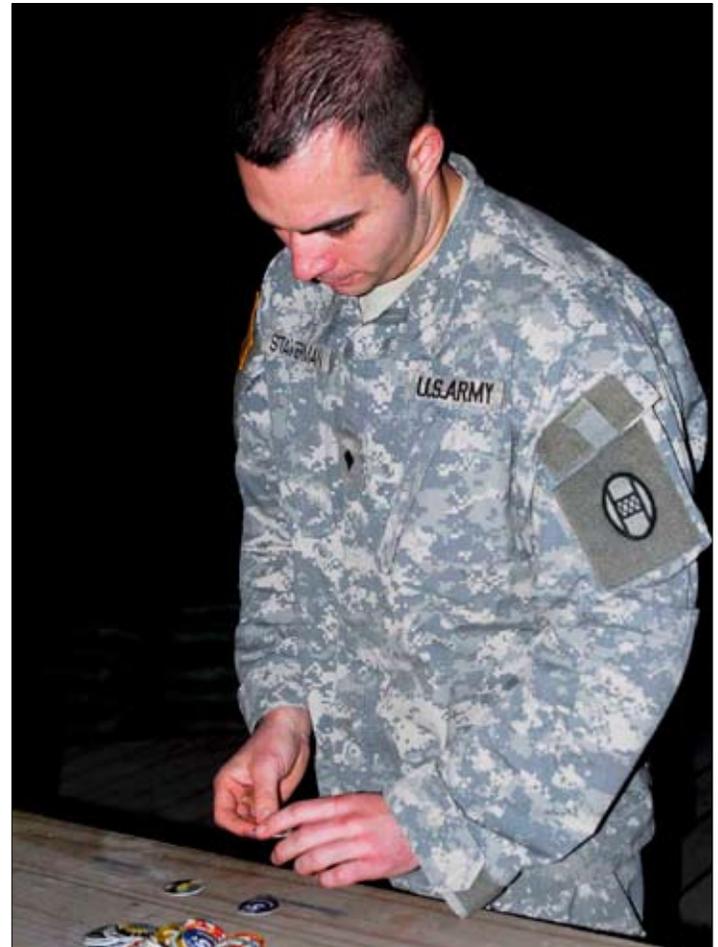


Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary

Spc. Tyler Staverman, of Wilmington, N.C., sorts pogs to donate to Boy Scouts Troop 223, Dec. 24 from Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Falcon.

tion that almost matched the total value of pogs, raising the amount to \$750 for the needy.

“It’s Christmas; to me it just makes sense,” said Brasington.

To Campbell, the importance comes from finding a way to keep his family’s time honored tradition alive even while deployed here in Iraq. His

father, brother and uncles were all Eagle Scouts and he said he hopes to continue the legacy.

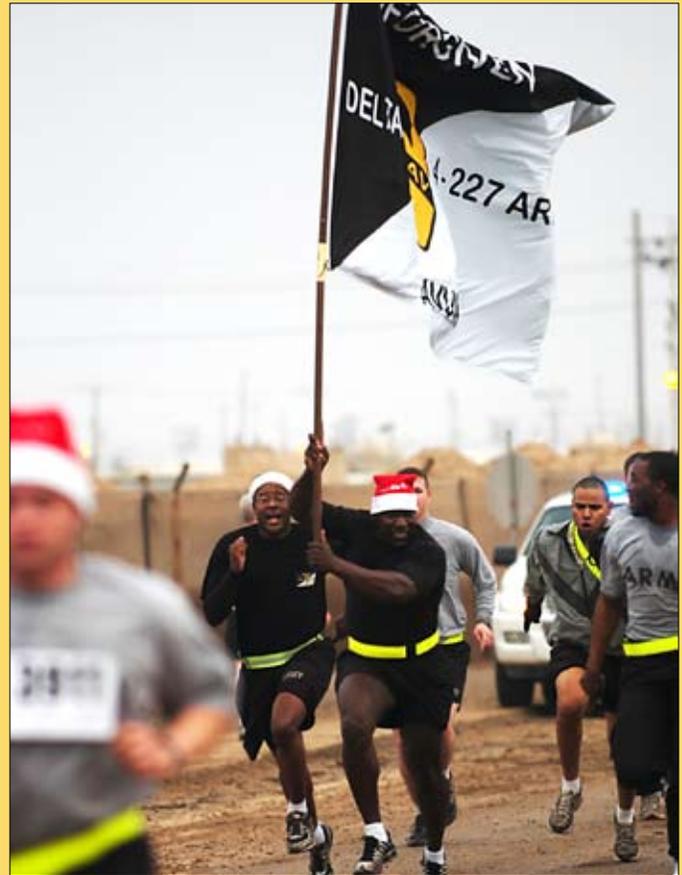
“I have friends that are involved or will be involved [with the scouts],” Campbell said as he made hand gestures as if he were knocking on wood. “If I have sons one day, I’d like to encourage them to be scouts.”

Air Cav hosts 5K Jingle Bell Run

Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Hoskins
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs



CAMP TAJI, Iraq— Capt. Traci Yamada, finishes strongly down the final stretch on her way to winning the women’s section of the 5K Jingle Bell Run, Dec. 25,



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cav. Div., charge the finish line at the end of the 5K Jingle Bell Run hosted by 4-227th, Dec. 25.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Two Soldiers watch as a pair of AH-64D Apache attack helicopters from 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, perform a low flyover for runners before the kick-off of the 5K Jingle Bell Run, here, Dec. 25.

Trooper puts language skills to good use

By Pfc. Bailey Anne Jester
1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.,
MND-B

BAGHDAD – Born and raised in St. Mary’s County, Md., Cpl. Timothy Bennett described himself as a typical punk skateboarder with a mohawk.

He is now a hard-working, successful Soldier in the U.S. Army.

After graduating high school, Bennett earned an associate degree in film and video production from Full Sail University in Winter Park, Fla.

“I wish I had joined the Army right after I graduated high school,” said 24 year-old Bennett. “The Army is something I have always wanted to do. My father was in the Army, and that kind of sparked my interest, but I thought I would try college first.”

Bennett enlisted in the U.S. Army as a cavalry scout in 2005. Shortly after raising his right hand he shipped off to Fort Knox, Ky. for basic training.

“I wanted a job that would keep me active and busy,” Bennett said explaining his decision to enlist as a cavalry scout.

Bennett plans on making the Army a career, and is creating goals along the way. His goals include qualifying as a ranger and eventually climbing through the ranks to a sergeant major.

After he graduated basic training at Fort Knox, he went to his first duty station, Fort Hood, Texas, where he is now assigned to the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st

Cavalry Division.

Not long after arriving to the unit they deployed to Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from October 2006 to January 2008.

During his first deployment Bennett took the time to learn basic Arabic, and now speaks it quite fluently. His knowledge of Arabic is useful when on patrols and talking to local nationals.

“I naturally just picked it up,” explained Bennett. “I listened to people talk while we were on patrol and picked up on the little things.”

It is normal to see Bennett having simple conversations with the locals while on patrol, said his battle buddy, Richtown, Va. native Spc. Nathan Huhn.

“It amuses [the local nationals] that an American is able to hold a conversation as well as he can,” Huhn admitted.

“It helps earn the respect and trust of the local nationals when you show them you have put forth the effort to learn a little more about them, especially the language,” Bennett explains. “They are also more responsive to [Soldiers] when they can see we are trying.”

Not only is the respect and trust of the local nationals earned, but the language barrier is minimized, which makes it easier for Bennett to continue his mission without the delay of looking for an interpreter.

“It definitely helps while out on patrol,” Bennett said. “If there is no interpreter around, I can still talk to the people and do my job.”

Bennett isn’t the only one that benefits from his self-learned talent, his friends and



Photo by Pfc. Bailey A. Jester

St. Mary’s County, Md. native, Cpl. Timothy Bennett, a team leader assigned to the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, enjoys an orange while on patrol outside Joint Security Station Istiqlal, Dec. 11.

few fellow Soldiers use it too.

“Guys in the platoon use me,” Bennett laughed, explaining the effect of his talent on his platoon. “If they need help and the interpreter is busy they ask me for help.”

Deployed again to the Baghdad area, he continues to use what he learned from his

last tour and is learning more every day.

“I am not going to say I know the entire language, but I know enough to get by,” Bennett said. “This isn’t something I grew up saying I was going to do, or even a goal I had in mind, but I am glad that I learned [the language].”

On This Day In History

December 28, 1972

Hanoi announces return to the Paris peace talks

After 11 days of round-the-clock bombing (with the exception of a 36-hour break for Christmas), North Vietnamese officials agree to return to the peace negotiations in Paris.

The Linebacker II bombing was initiated on December 18 by President Richard Nixon when the North Vietnamese, who walked out of the peace negotiations in Paris, refused his ultimatum to return to the talks. During the course of the bombing, 700 B-52 sorties and more than 1,000 fighter-bomber sorties dropped an estimated 20,000 tons of bombs, mostly over the densely populated area between Hanoi and Haiphong.

During the ensuing battle, the North Vietnamese launched their entire stock of more than 1,200 surface-to-air missiles against the U.S. planes. Fifteen B-52s and 11 other U.S. aircraft were lost, along with 93 flyers downed, killed, missing or captured. Hanoi claimed heavy damage and destruction of densely populated civilian areas in Hanoi, Haiphong, and their suburbs. The bombing resulted in the deaths of 1,318 in Hanoi. While some news reporters alleged that the U.S. was guilty of "carpet bombing" the area (deliberately targeting civilian areas with intensive bombing to "carpet" a city with bombs), the bombing was intended to focus on specific military targets.

The Linebacker II bombing was effective in bringing the North Vietnamese back to the negotiating table. When they returned to Paris, the peace talks moved along quickly. On January 23, 1973, the United States, North Vietnam, the Republic of Vietnam, and the Viet Cong signed a cease-fire agreement that took effect five days later.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Georges Aboumrad, 2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div., MND-B

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Pfc. Jeremy Ogrizovich, of Chicago, Ill., an infantryman with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, wins the 5K Jingle Bell Jog competition on Christmas day at Contingency Operating Site Hammer.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

If you rearrange the letters in "Chuck Norris", they also spell "Crush Rock In". The words "with his fists" are understood.

Quote For Today

“Duty is the most sublime word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more. You should never wish to do less.”

- Robert E. Lee -

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
68° F | 46° F



Tomorrow
66° F | 53° F



Wednesday
69° F | 55° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What was the name of the Soviet leader that came after Stalin?

Last Issue's Answer: LTC A. PETER DEWEY

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. 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/pphp&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

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

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



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

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