

THE RED BULL REPORT

THE RED BULLS.ORG MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION SOUTH



[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

December 24, 2009



"I make sure the Soldiers are cross-trained in special tasks and teams."

1st Lt. Jennifer Beatty
Convoy Commander, "G" Platoon.



Soldiers prepare to attach their "disabled" mine resistant ambush protected vehicle to another for a tow out of the established danger area.

Photos by Sgt. Francis Horton
First Lt. Jennifer Beatty (far right), convoy commander for "G" platoon, 121st Brigade Support Battalion and a native of Crestview, Fla., briefs her soldiers on the conditions and plans for their training exercise on Contingency Operation Base Adder.

IED DEFEAT

By Sgt. Francis Horton
367th MPAD



CAMP ADDER, Iraq – All Soldiers are trained on various convoy operations before they deploy, even if they never step into an armored vehicle during their deployment.

Here at Camp Adder though, some Soldiers continue to hone their skills because it can save their lives.

"We're doing convoy lanes training," said Sgt 1st Class Robert Moore, resident of Buffalo, Mo. and platoon leader, "G" Platoon, 121st Brigade Support Battalion. "It involves everything we would do in a convoy."

The battle drills include summoning medical evacuations, reacting to improvised explosive devices and vehicle recovery.

"We have to make sure we can get from point 'A' to point 'B,'" said 1st Lt. Jennifer Beatty from Crestview, Fla., the convoy commander of "G" Platoon.

Beatty's job is twofold. Not only must she take command of a convoy of armored vehicles crossing Iraq, but she also has to make sure her Soldiers are up to speed on their weapons and equipment, she said.



Soldiers load a "wounded" Sgt. 1st Class Robert Moore into a medical evacuation vehicle after an Improvised Explosive Device hit one of their vehicles during convoy lanes training.

DEFEAT
Page 6

Sweet people packing sweet cookies

By Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey
367th MPAD



COB BASRA – Mention “Sweet Martha’s Cookie Jar” around a native Minnesotan in Iraq, and you’re almost guaranteed a glazed-eyed expression and rambling murmurs of longing. Say “10,000 cookies” right after, and you might need to find them a chair.

Yet, that’s the number of cookies volunteers from several charitable and patriotic organizations – many Sweet Martha’s employees – gathered Dec. 19 to pack-up and send to troops with the Minnesota National Guard’s 34th Inf. Div.

As part of the event, Soldiers at Contingency Operating Base Basra hopped on Skype and got a chance to ogle the buckets as they were being prepared.

Volunteers from all over participated on the Minnesota side. Cadets from St. Thomas Academy, Mendota Heights, Minn. – where the event was held – pitched in and even added notes to each package for the Soldiers.

Members of the Minnesota Patriot Guard – the

Minnesota-based arm of the Patriot Guard Riders, who attend funerals of service members – shared table space with Blue Star Moms, a service organization of military mothers. They were joined by local members of the Vietnam Veterans Association and local exchange clubs.

Bill Popp, CEO of PopCom, showed up to support the troops and say a few words over Skype.

Spc. LaFena Washington, human resources specialist, from Minnetonka, Minn., said she was especially touched by the singing and guitar playing of Joshua Revak, himself a veteran of recent conflicts.

Revak serenaded several of the Soldiers over Skype, and spent a considerable amount of time at the Skype terminal chatting with and singing to them.

It was the first time Washington had ever used Skype, she said, and that Saturday night, if not for a friend encouraging her to come participate, would have otherwise been a movie and popcorn night.

“I’m so glad I did this,” she said after passing the



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey

Spc. LaFena Washington, human resources, 34th Infantry Division, from Minnetonka, Minn., claps for Joshua Revak, himself a veteran of recent conflicts, after being treated to a song over Skype Dec. 19 at COB Basra. Revak was one of several volunteers at St. Thomas Academy, who showed up to support deployed Soldiers.

headset on to the next Soldier. “It was worth missing movie night.”

“The fact they had a veteran playing for us really stood out,” she said, “and that people took time out to come over and talk to us. I was really impressed.”

Staff Sgt. Paul Gudding,

who works in the 34th Inf. Div. personnel section, followed Washington.

“It was just nice to see that a bunch of people got on,” said the Moorhead, Minn. native. “It was a little

COOKIES
Page 4

HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

Lake Minnetonka throughout its recorded history, has been a resort destination.



The lake is an irregular shape with numerous bays and islands which make up about 125 miles (200 km) of shoreline.

THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division
Public Affairs Office



Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Rick Nash



Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Julin

Editorial Staff

The Red Bull Report is an authorized publication for members of MND-S. Contents of *The Red Bull Report* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 34th Infantry Division. All editorial content of *The Red Bull Report* is prepared, edited provided and approved by the 34th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office.

34th Inf. Div. PAO: Lt. Col. Kevin Olson
OIC, Command Information: 1st Lt. Shamika Hill
NCOIC, Command Information: 1st Sgt. David Bennett
NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Chris Carney
Managing Editor: Sgt. Ben Kibbey
Graphics Designer: Sgt. Francis Horton
Layout/Design: Spc. Francesca Stanchi
Staff Writers: Sgt. Francis Horton, Spc. Sam Soza,
Spc. Samantha Johnson, Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence

Contributing Units

- 3rd BCT, 3rd Infantry Division
- 17th Fires Brigade
- 4th BCT, 1st Armored Division
- 12th Combat Aviation Brigade
- 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Media Queries please contact 34th Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office at MND-S_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil

UFC fighter Tito Ortiz visits service members

By Spc. Samuel Soza
367th MPAD



COB BASRA – It isn't often that Spartan living conditions can help you gain some mat-time with a professional fighter from the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

But Patrol Base Minden is just that type of small base that Tito Ortiz, the mixed martial artist, specifically requested to visit to thank Soldiers for their service during his visit to Multi-National Division South.

"It's just a real small patrol base right here near Iran. We thought this stuff just happened on the bigger [Forward Operating Bases]," said Spc. Thomas Porter, cannon crewmember, 3rd Platoon, "C" Battery, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Fires Brigade.

"We didn't really expect anyone famous to be able to come out here and it's pretty exciting," said Porter, a Wells Branch, Tex. native.

Ortiz, on his third tour with the USO in Iraq, said his purpose was to encourage service members in their endeavors.

"I come out and just try to raise these guys' spirits a little bit," Ortiz said, "I'm very thankful of them coming out and giving their time for the Americans in the United States."

Porter is also appreciative of the time taken by Ortiz and others to help Soldiers during their long deployments away from home.

"I think it's great that people are showing interest in what we do and come out here to support us," he said. "It's a nice change of pace for us."

Traveling by UH-60 Black Hawk, Ortiz also made stops at Camp Wessam and Contingency Operating Base Basra to pose for photographs with service members, autograph memorabilia, and personally express his gratitude for their sacrifices.

Ortiz even signed a UFC X-Box 360 game for one Soldier.

At PB Minden, Ortiz finished signing autographs and taking pictures, and then suggested showing the Soldiers some submission moves.

The Soldiers crowded into the small gym and Ortiz demonstrated several moves and chokeholds.



Photos by Spc. Samuel Soza

Tito Ortiz, professional mixed martial arts fighter, poses at Patrol Base Minden for a picture with Pfc. Dakota Shirley, native of Ganado, Ariz., Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle driver with 17th Fires Brig.



Ortiz autographs pictures for Soldiers at Patrol Base Minden. During his tour, Ortiz visited other bases around southern Iraq to thank Soldiers for their service.

From Page 2**COOKIES**

hometown experience.”

Brad Walton, organizer, said the event carried on a tradition started in 2006 when a Marine returning soon to Iraq called in to his WCCO, Minneapolis radio show. When Walton asked him what he could do to help the troops, the Marine simply replied, “Chocolate chip cookies.”

Walton immediately thought of Sweet Martha’s cookie Jar, and owner Martha Rossini-Olson jumped at the idea, Walton said.

That first batch saw 10,000 cookies heading out to the troops, and now another 10,000 are shipping overseas.

“About a month ago as I thought of you and the Red Bulls and all the troops, I reflected back to 2006 and the cookies for the troops,” Walton wrote in an email to Chaplain (Lt. Col) John Morris, 34th Inf. Div. chaplain, in early December. “I called Martha Rossini of Sweet Martha fame and asked her if she was once again up for doing what we did with the Blue Star Moms and all back in 2006.”

Of course, her enthusiasm for the idea was as great in 2009 as in 2006.

They would even throw in an added bonus, Walton noted in the email: milk.

Gudding was happy at the idea of the milk when volunteers showed it off to him over Skype.

“It’ll be nice to have some real milk,” he said.

In the end, it comes down to basic gratitude, on both ends.

“We are all so indebted to all of you for your service,” Walton, said, with Rossini-Olson nodding agreement next to him. “It’s just our way of saying thank you.”

On the other end, once those cookies have reached the troops, the volunteers and organizers are sure to have that thank you returned to them, perhaps not 10,000 times in word, but certainly in 10,000 moments of enjoyment.

For more of Sgt. Kibbey’s stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Kibbey

Army Medics Operate in Holiday Spirit



Photos by Spc. Samuel Soza

Sgt. Dina Lubben, of Lakefield, Minn., cook with the 204th Area Support Medical Center, poses with the decorations in the chaplain’s tent in the medical center at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Dec. 23. Lubben and others bedecked the area using decorations left behind by British soldiers and donated from people in the U.S.



Sgt. Matthew Machtan, of Center City, Minn., noncommissioned officer in charge of radiology with the 204th Area Support Medical Center, makes use of a “chimney and fireplace” in the radiology section in the medical center at COB Basra, Dec. 23.

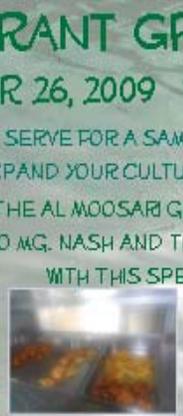
OASIS RESTAURANT GRAND OPENING

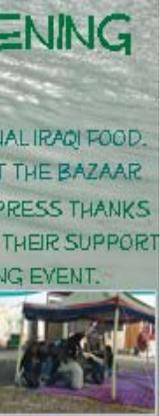
DECEMBER 26, 2009 1200-1400

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE FOR A SAMPLING OF TRADITIONAL IRAQI FOOD.
COME OUT AND EXPAND YOUR CULTURAL EXPERIENCE AT THE BAZAAR

THE AL MOOSARI GROUP WANTS TO EXPRESS THANKS TO MG. NASH AND THE 34TH IN. DIV. FOR THEIR SUPPORT WITH THIS SPECIAL GRAND OPENING EVENT.







ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Shurta -
police



بعلك عترة غه كشمش



SUDOKU

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

For puzzle solutions visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/puzzlesolutions



Red Bull Radio
PODCAST
Silkworm
in Basra

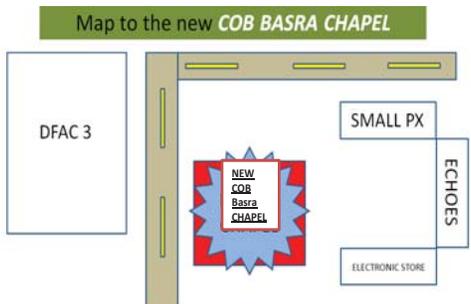


www.TheRedBulls.org/podcast

LAST SUNDAY @ the Interim Chapel Tent



Join us @ the
NEW
COB Basra Chapel!!



All Chapel Services, beginning with the 24 December Christmas Eve services @ 2200, will be @ the NEW COB Basra Chapel. See map above for directions.

Questions? Call or email SGT Jonathan Groeneweg @ 858-4596 or jonathan.groeneweg@iraq.centcom.mil, thanks!

COB BASRA
2009 Holiday Service Schedule

24 Dec, 2200
Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service

24 Dec, 2330
Christmas Eve Mass

25 Dec, 0900
Christmas Mass

25 Dec, 1030
COB Basra Christmas Service

All services held at the new COB Basra Chapel

From Page 1 **DEFEAT**

While everyone has a duty to perform, Beatty gets all of her Soldiers trained in every job they may encounter during the convoy.

"I make sure the Soldiers are cross-trained in special tasks and teams," she said.

If one person goes down, someone else might need to take charge, whether it is as a gunner, driver or medic.

Currently, "G" Platoon is practicing IED defeat, in which the Soldiers must react to roadside bombs.

As they drove through the training site, their eyes watched for any signs of possible explosives.

Spotting a fluttering bag on the side of the road weighted down, with wires sticking out, the convoy stopped and called up a nine-line request to address a possible unexploded ordinance.

Unfortunately for them, just because they saw it did not mean they would

get out of the training in reacting to a disabled vehicle. As they passed by, a small explosion went off near one of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles (MRAP).

Air Force Staff Sgt. Tor Hvidsten, an explosive ordinance disposal specialist with the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, and his team set up the explosives, placing a primary and secondary explosive to best mimic the attacks from insurgents.

"This way, they can feel the blast and react properly," said Hvidsten, of Virginia Beach, Va.

While not large enough to injure the Soldiers in the vehicles, it can be felt and heard by everyone.

"The (explosive) simulates the real thing," Moore said. "It gives off smoke and light and can disorientate you."

After the explosion, the convoy came upon Moore "wounded" and the MRAP disabled. Moving quickly, the various teams set to work, some pulled security around the convoy, others

rescued Moore from the vehicle and strapped him down to a stretcher so they could carry him to their medical vehicle.

Once the wounded were secured, the tow bar was connected to the "damaged" vehicle and the platoon was ready to move again.

"I love this training," Beatty said. "It gives us an idea what to work on and what to sustain."

Though there were a few minor hiccups, the Soldiers moved calmly and quickly showing that the training was second nature to them.

"We had great communication throughout," said Spc. Michael Moran, a fuel specialist from Paoli, Ind.

The platoon conducts missions every other week from here to Forward Operating Bases Hunter and Garryowen, Moore said, generally for three to four days.

For more of Sgt. Horton's stories, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/Horton

From Page 3 **ORTIZ**

Some Soldiers even had the courage to face off against the professional fighter.

In the half-hour at the gym Ortiz added no losses to his record.

Afterward, a sweat-soaked Ortiz took a moment to offer his appreciation.

"I'm very thankful for you guys having me here," Ortiz said, "I'm very, very appreciative for what you guys do and the sacrifices you do for your families."

"From all the fighters, families, and all of us, we're very, very thankful for you guys and that's why I spend my time right here before Christmas," he said.

Ortiz said he wanted to visit troops last year but recent back surgery prevented it.

"After I just had my fight, three weeks ago [against Forrest Griffin in UFC 106], you can still see I have a little black eye from it, I said it was time," he said, "It's right before Christmas, I can come out here and raise the guys spirits up."

As an UFC contender, Tito "The Huntington Beach Bad Boy" Ortiz has had an impressive 23 fights, with 15 wins, seven losses and a single draw.

He said his most memorable fight was when he won the light-heavyweight champion title after beating Wanderlei Silva at UFC 25, April 14, 2000.

He successfully defended the title five times before losing to Randy Couture at UFC 44, Sept. 26, 2003.

"After all my fights I thank our troops," Ortiz said. "The men and women who serve for our country. They're the real heroes."

For more of Spc. Soza's stories, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/Soza



Ortiz illustrates an elbow strike with demonstrator Spc. Johnny Pentavalle, of Fontana, Calif.

The First and Only . . .

Red Bull Flea Market & Charity Collection



Sunday, January 17, 2010

at the Red Bull USA Volleyball courts from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This is an opportunity to sell your items privately, from service member to service member or to donate items to charity! Provide your own display, and set your own prices. Pick up bags to store donations* prior to Jan. 17 at the Red Bull MWR tent.

**SUGGESTED ITEMS - clean towels and bed linens, useable running shoes, civilian clothes, etc.*

**PROHIBITED ITEMS - uniform clothing items, undergarments, any military equipment, any item with an NSN, and weapons.*



Around the world in 34 seconds



RIO DE JANEIRO - Brazil's top judge ruled Tuesday that a 9-year-old boy must be returned to his U.S. father, the latest twist in a five-year custody battle that has frayed relations between the two countries. The ruling by Supreme Court Chief Justice Gilmar Mendes was a much-sought-after victory for David Goldman, a New Jersey man who has pledged to fight for his son, Sean, as long as it takes. Goldman said before the ruling that he was holding out hope of being reunited with his son in time to celebrate the holidays in the United States. Mendes' Tuesday ruling lifts a stay on a federal court's order for Brazilian relatives to hand over the boy. Goldman's New Jersey-based lawyer, Patricia Apy, said late Tuesday that she believed Mendes' order required that Sean be handed over immediately, but she said Goldman's attorneys had not heard from lawyers for the Brazilian family. Sean was taken by Goldman's now-deceased ex-wife to her native Brazil in 2004, where he has remained. Goldman has been fighting to get him back from the boy's stepfather. Lawyers on both sides have said there was still a chance for the Brazilian family to appeal to Brazil's highest appeals court, though the chances of success seemed slight.



WASHINGTON - An American Airlines Boeing 737 overshot the runway while landing at the international airport in Kingston, Jamaica on Tuesday night, causing 40 injuries but no fatalities, a local newspaper reported. "The injured passengers have been taken to the Kingston Public Hospital," Jamaican Information Minister Daryl Vaz told the Jamaica Observer. "There are no reports of fatalities." The Jamaica Gleaner newspaper said three of the injured were seriously hurt. An FAA spokeswoman told Reuters the plane was American Airlines flight 331 from Miami. The flight originated in Washington DC. The plane crashed and broke in two after landing, Fox News said on its website, quoting local reports. The Jamaica Observer newspaper said the plane arrived in pouring rain at around 10 p.m. local time and overshot the runway. CNN.com quoted Omar Lawrence, the airport's operations coordinator, as saying there were 145 passengers and seven crew members aboard.



CHARLOTTE, N.C. - There was little recognition outside the racing world when Jimmie Johnson won his first NASCAR championship. Same with his second, and again with his third. But four straight championships? That's a different story. Johnson, the first driver in NASCAR history to win four consecutive titles, earned mainstream recognition Monday when he was honored as the Male Athlete of the Year by members of The Associated Press. Johnson received 42 votes from editors at U.S. newspapers which are members of the AP. Tennis star Roger Federer (30 votes) and Olympic sprinter Usain Bolt (29) were the only other athletes with totals in the double-digits.



WARREN, Mich. - A 52-year-old man complained only about the cold weather before walking into a diner with a five-inch knife sticking out of his chest. The unnamed man called a Warren 911 operator on Sunday night to ask that an ambulance be sent to Bray's, an eatery in neighboring Hazel Park. He said he had been stabbed during a robbery attempt half a mile away, then walked to the restaurant and called 911 from a pay phone. On a recording of the call, the man gives a vague description of his attacker before saying, "I'm gonna sit down at Bray's 'cause they got a chair and it's cold out here." Restaurant employee George Mirdita told The Detroit News the man calmly ordered coffee. Police said that the man is recovering.