

BATTLE SIGHT

Issue 13

30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team

October 2009

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If you would like to submit stories or digital photographs for consideration for publication in Battle Sight, contact Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan.

Public Affairs Guidance for dealing with the media

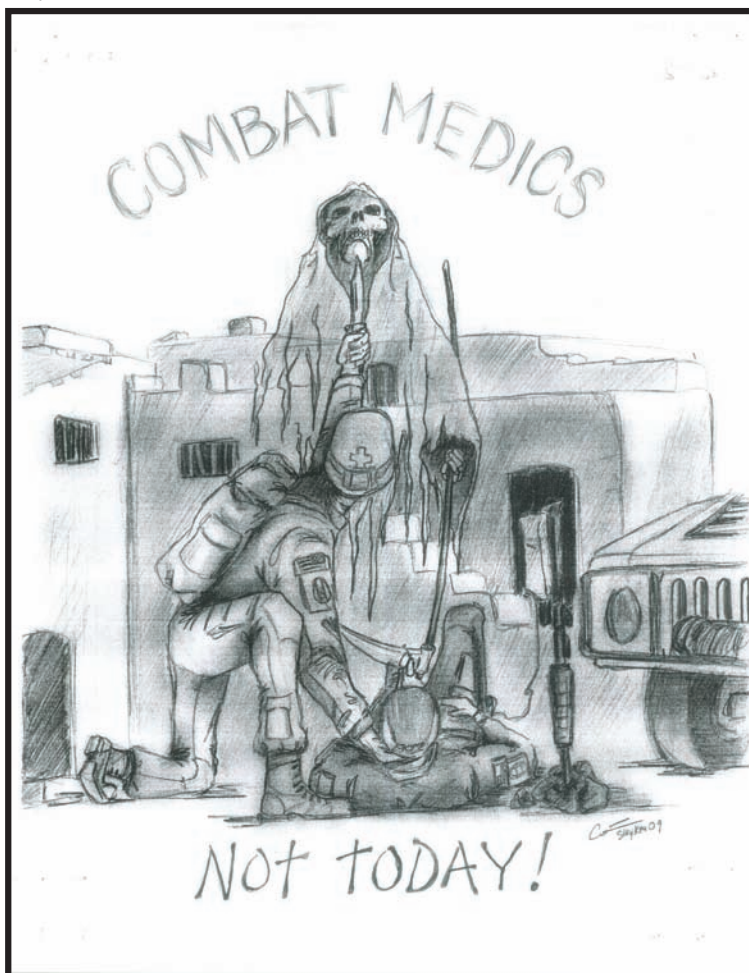
- Always check media ID and credentials. If none, suggest they contact 30th Brigade PAO, Capt. Richard Scoggins.
- Never discuss troop locations and current or future plans.
- Everything you say is always on the RECORD with the media.
- Only discuss what you know and never speculate. Stay in your lane. If you do not know, say you do not know. NEVER lie to the media.
- Notify chain of command of media presence
- Be prepared by knowing three things you can say about yourself and three things you can say about your job.
- You do not have speak, grant interviews or answer all questions if you do not wish to and you can always end an interview.

Remember, if we do not tell the story, the media will be forced to write it on their own. We can be proud of what we are doing and the sacrifices our families are making. Let the world know that you are making a stand and what you are willing to defend.

Visit www.dvidshub.net/units/30HBCT to view more stories and videos featuring Soldiers from the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team

Featured artist:

Sgt. Matthew Christian, of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron. Christian is from Huntersville, W. Va.



We want your point of view! If you would like to show off your talents in photography, story writing, artwork or poetry, send your submission to

Capt. Rick Scoggins at:

richard.scoggins@30bct.army.mil

Please send photos in jpeg format, and stories and poems in word documents

On the cover: Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Johnson, a platoon sergeant with Co. B., 120th CAB, leads Soldiers through a patrol during a company clearance operation south of Baghdad, Oct. 3. Johnson is from Pembroke, N.C. For similar photos, see the 120th photo essay on pages 10 and 11.

(cover and essay photos by Sgt. Mary Phillips)



Letter from the Commander

Greetings "Old Hickory."

I want to congratulate you on your successes in improving security and civil capacity across the Hickory OE.

As I conduct battlefield circulation, I see much more activity on the roadways and in the schools, markets and farms across southern Baghdad than when we arrived here.

Your efforts have greatly improved the quality of life for the Iraqi people. Our partnerships with the Government of Iraq and the Iraqi Security Forces have allowed the economy to flourish through agriculture and small business development. We must continue these efforts and remain mission-focused as we soldier on in the full spectrum fight, as we have for the last six to seven months.

In the coming months, the Iraqis will be conducting national elections that will determine who will lead the Iraqi people into the future. This is a historic moment for Iraq, as it will show the rest of the world that Iraq's government is strong, organized and able to take on the responsibilities of caring for its people. Fair, free and peaceful elections will require continued coordination with our Iraqi Security Force partners through intelligence sharing and combined operations against the enemies of the people and the Government of Iraq.

We will spend these next few months stepping up our efforts to advise and assist our Iraqi partners in identifying and apprehending those who wish to bring death and destruction to the Iraqi people. This will be a challenging time, but as all of you have shown, we stand ready, and are up to any adversity that lay ahead.

Take stock in the time we have left, remain poised, and ready to execute your duties. Continue to look out for each other and take care of your equipment, for these are the things that will take you home safely. As we head into the holiday season, remember your families and loved ones, and thank them for their continued support. With your discipline and resolve we will be able to handle the road that lies ahead.

OLD HICKORY!
GREGORY A. LUSK
COL, IN



Spc. Ashley Call, a mechanic with B Co. 230th BSB, takes a break from working to talk with North Carolina Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William E. Ingram, Jr. at Forward Operation Base Falcon, Oct. 28. Ingram came to attend a meeting with 30th Brigade Commander Col. Greg Lusk and other brigade Soldiers, and spent the day greeting Soldiers and touring facilities on the FOB. (Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary)



Soldiers of B Co., 252nd CAB, share a prayer before leaving for an early morning patrol at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Oct. 07. Staff Sgt. Isaac Perez, of Fuquay-Varina, led the prayer, a tradition with the Soldiers before missions. (Photo by Spc. Kelly LeCompte)

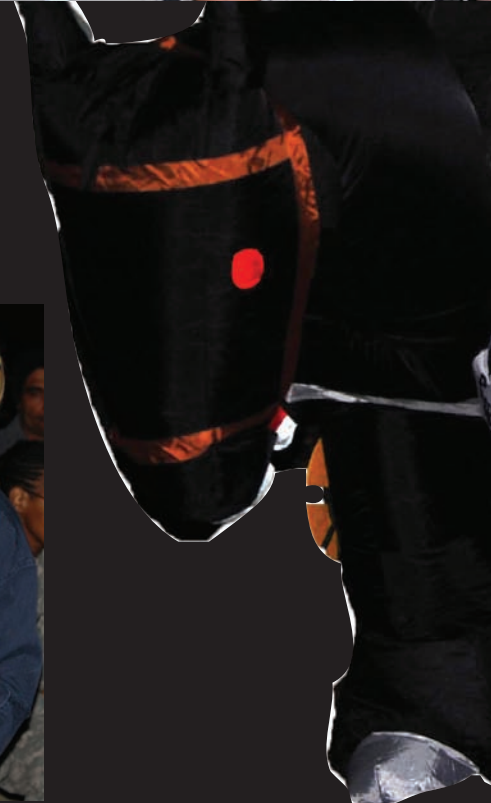
Halloween at

A cool desert breeze and nearly full moon perfectly set the stage for the nearly 200 service members and civilians attending the Halloween celebration hosted by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff at Forwarding Operating Base Falcon, Oct. 31.

Events included a mock "Fear Factor" contest, a "Thriller" dance re-enactment and a haunted dining facility room. Attendees ended the night admiring costumes and dancing the zombies away in the decorated dining facility.

After eating dog food, running in a full bite-suit and being bitten by a base K-9, eating a disgusting concoction of corned beef and bottled spices, bobbing for plastic bottle caps in a similarly disgusting mix, and eating chocolate pudding from a diaper, the three winners of the "Fear Factor" competition were: first place - Spc. Robert Kubas, of Co. B, 230th BSB; second place - Capt. Ryan Wheeler, of HHC, 30th HBCT; and third place - Spc. Joshua Parker, of Co. C, 230th BSTB.

(Photos by 30th HBCT public affairs)



F O B Falcon



252nd CAB Soldiers awarded Combat Infantryman Badge

Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan

For U.S. Army infantrymen, all of their training comes to task when faced with the realities of combat.

Emerging from that crucible, they are set apart from all others. It is in that spirit that the Army recognizes infantrymen with the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Soldiers of Company B, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, received the prestigious award at a ceremony on Forward Operating Base Falcon, south of Baghdad, Oct. 8.

The 13 Soldiers earned the honor, only awarded to infantry Soldiers, after an explosive formed projectile attack hit their seven-vehicle convoy in June 2009.

"There are 300 million Americans, only a few serve, of those only a few have what it takes to be infantry and close with the enemy in battle," said Capt. Benjamin Wynn, Co. B commander, from Raleigh, N.C.

The Soldiers recognized were: Sgt. Nicholas Gonzalez, of Raleigh, N.C.; Spc. Timothy Aycock, of Wilson, N.C.; Sgt. Elgin Cofield, of Rocky Mount; Pfc. Joshua

Forbes, of Wilson, N.C.; Sgt. Josh McGarity, of Winston-Salem, N.C.; Pfc. Aaron Milan, of Sacrin, Ohio; Spc. Michael Cortes, of Wilson, N.C.; 2nd Lt. Matthew Taylor, of Fayetteville, N.C.; 1st Lt. Bruce Riggins, of Fayetteville, N.C.; Spc. Patrick Schmeltzer, of Salisbury, N.C.; Pfc. Kevin Shinn, of Wilson, N.C.; Pfc. Brenden Briggs, of Gastonia, N.C. and Spc. Brenden Martin of Gastonia, N.C.

The badge, a rifle on an infantry blue background ringed by an oak wreath, began in WWII as recognition of Soldiers who had been direct battle with the enemy as an infantry Soldier.

The award can only be earned by infantry Soldiers in combat.

"It distinguishes you from everybody in the Army, this is what every [infantry] Soldier wants," said McGarity.

"It is the most prized award in infantry," said Staff Sgt. Rosa.



2nd Lt. Matthew Taylor of Fayetteville, N.C. drives home a Combat Infantry Badge on the chest of Spc. Michael Cortes of Wilson N.C., during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Oct. 8. Both Soldiers are with the 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team. The Soldiers' convoy was attacked by an explosively formed projectile south of Baghdad in June.

Infantry Man Prefers Dirt to Desk

Story and photo by Spc. Kelly LeCompte

Working in a tactical operations center is an important part of maintaining a unit's area of responsibility during a deployment in a combat zone, but for Sgt. Brian Kuntzman, a grunt at heart, being outside and sweating it out sounded much more fun.

"I've never been the kind of guy that worked indoors or had an office job before in my life. I'm more of an outside kind of guy," said Kuntzman, a painting contractor from Charlotte, N.C. "I just like to be outside doing missions. The TOC is a vital role of the mission, but it's just not my make up."

Kuntzman joined North Carolina's National Guard two years ago as an infantryman, after having been out of the service for 13 years.

"It's just being around it," Kuntzman said of his reason for re-enlisting. "I just missed the Army. I felt like something was missing."

Eight months after signing up, Kuntzman deployed with the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

"My name was on the list to deploy with the 30th," he said.

"They put me in the headquarters platoon, and that has to do with the TOC, and that's something I wasn't really familiar with."

Kuntzman said he started learning how to use the equipment in the operations center, but even as he learned more, it just didn't peak his interests.

"They started introducing me to the job in the TOC, with the communications and the computers," Kuntzman said. "I just



wasn't very interested in it and I asked if I could get into a line unit... They knew my heart just wasn't in it."

Kuntzman said he came to Joint Security Station Doura, south of Baghdad, about a month into the deployment to help set up the company's tactical operations center.

"I'm more of an outside kind of guy,"

-Sgt. Brian Kuntzman

After meeting the company first sergeant and commander, he expressed his desire to join a traditional line unit.

It was just the opportunity he needed.

Kuntzman said he volunteered to come to JSS Doura because of the possibility of being able to join the infantrymen on a few missions, but instead, he got to join the company altogether.

"I met 1st Sgt. Hatley and [Capt. Smith]... they took a liking to me and I stayed," Kuntzman said. "[Headquarters and Headquarters Company] let me come out here...and Capt. Smith let me be a part of his [personnel security detail] team."

"Once I came out here...and 1st Sgt. Hatley introduced me to PSD, that's where I felt at home. It makes life so much easier when you can do something you like to do. It's been a very good deployment so far."



Three P's for Peace

Story and photos by Spc. Ruth McClary

Throughout this most recent deployment to Iraq, the families and employers of West Virginia National Guard Soldiers have been making contributions toward a huge campaign to help the less advantaged in Iraq.

School supplies to include back packs, stickers, glue, tape, pens, paper and pencils have been pouring in since Soldiers of the 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team requested aid when they arrived, here, in May.

With the first of many deliveries, the Soldiers began distributing supplies collected during the "Three P's for Peace" campaign to children in Yusifiyah, south of Baghdad, Oct. 15.

The campaign got its name when the squadron's executive officer, Maj. Chris Selvey, and members of his church wanted to focus on the essential items needed for school; pens, paper and pencils.

"When I read that Iraqi kids were not allowed to attend school without supplies, I took it personal and thought, 'What if that were my son,'" said Selvey, a member of Fayetteville Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, W. Va.

"Kathy Arritt from my church

spearheaded the campaign and took it to another level," said Selvey. "It was incorporated into the vacation Bible school class where kids were asked to bring in a pack of pencils or paper to help Iraqi kids just like them."

The squadron's command sent letters to the squadron's troops asking their family and friends to contribute to the campaign. The squadron's chaplain, Capt. Mike Allen, of Parkersburg, W. Va., stored and organized the supplies, which filled up several offices and two rail cars, until the Soldiers were able to begin distributing the supplies.

Several of the Soldiers' churches donated supplies. Members of Allen's church, Grace Gospel Baptist, along with members of 2nd Lt. James Coffey, II's church, Teays Valley Missionary Baptist located in Hurricane, W. Va, donated large amounts of supplies.

"My church youth group sent five priority boxes of colored pencils," said Coffey. "Crayons melt so that's why they focused on pencils instead. They sent probably a thousand dollars worth of pencils."

The civil affairs unit attached to the 30th Brigade received several bins of book bags from Humanitarian Assistance, a government sponsored

program that distributes supplies to CA teams to cover people's basic needs: food, water and shelter. Water filters, blankets and heaters were also donated from this fund and will be next in line for the team to distribute.

"We pulled out 150 back packs for the first few drops and we still have several bins of supplies to go," said 1st Lt. Adam Stickley, of Leeton, Mo. "All the back packs are stuffed with school supplies, puzzle books, a soccer ball or a doll."

Literacy kits containing Arabic lesson plans for teachers and booklets for students were donated by the United States Agency of International Development. These kits are grade specific and designed for grades first through third.

Arabic coloring books were also among the items donated from the people of West Virginia.

"We are trying to encourage those who are in school to stay in school," said Stickley. "Most of the classes are cramped with students who don't have reading and writing materials."

"Pre-school is not as accessible as primary school and a lot of the kids from our area of operations don't make it through to high school. They start to weed out after primary to work on farms," he said.

Students of Paden City Elementary School, W. Va. sent their first shipment of supplies Sept. 11. The students were encouraged to help the children of Iraq become empowered through education while helping create good relationships between the American troops and the Iraqi families they encounter.

"My wife has already asked me to get contact information from our replacements so they can continue to send supplies after we leave," said Allen.

"The chaplain sent thank you notes to everybody that sent something," said Selvey. "Those who didn't send supplies helped in other ways. The Fayetteville Fire



(all photos) First Lt. Adam Stickley, of Leeton, Mo., and Spc. Jason Sizemore, of House Springs, Mo., stuff caution flyers and school supplies into back packs sent to Iraqi children in the southwestern Baghdad region from West Virginia Guard Soldiers families, friends and employers. The flyers provide information on the dangers of getting too close to explosive devices and shows how toy guns could be mistaken for real ones. Stickley and Sizemore are with the 1472nd Civil Affairs Company attached to the 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron.

Department donated postage fees to send supplies and we have received thousands and thousands of items; making this campaign a huge success."

Wounded Warrior reunited with 120th CAB comrades for a day

Story and photo by Sgt. Mary Phillips

The room was silent, and would occasionally erupt into laughter at a funny story as reunited brothers in arms swapped stories.

Retired 1st Lt. Edwin Salau, of New Bern, N.C., who served as a platoon leader with Company C, 120th Combined Arms Battalion "Tuskhogs," 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team in 2004 only had one thing to say.

"Hi, I'm Ed. I'm a Tuskhog."

Salau, who lost part of his left leg in a rocket propelled grenade attack when his patrol was ambushed in Nov. 2004, was one of eight Soldiers and a Marine who stopped at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Oct. 13, as part of Operation Proper Exit.

Founded by the Laurel, Md., based group, Troops First, the program is designed to bring wounded troops back to Iraq with the hopes of gaining psychological closure. This is the first time a program of this kind has been attempted while combat is still taking place. Military officials have supported the program since its inception.

In addition to the troops who live at Falcon, a group of Soldiers who served with Salau in 2004 came from FOB Mahmudiyah to reconnect with their leader, friend and former comrade.

Soldiers laughed, and told stories from their last deployment and exchanged handshakes and hugs.

"You don't know how much this means to me," Salau said. "That with everything you're doing and everything you've gotta do, and all the deadlines you've got today, you set them aside to come out and see me. That means a lot to me and I know it means a lot to the Soldiers and the Marine with me."

This trip with Operation Proper Exit helped Salau gain some closure after his experience the last time he was in Iraq.

"I felt a sense of pride, being back in Iraq with the Soldiers

I led in 2004," said Salau. "The North Carolina National Guard is like a big family, and I hated that I was not able to return to Iraq with my brothers this time. I also hated that I left them in Iraq in 2004. So, I felt a very selfish need to show them that I could walk off the battlefield on my terms. This time when I left them, the enemy did not have a vote," Salau said.

Not only do the wounded benefit from returning to Iraq, the Soldiers who served with them do to.

"It provides closure," said Nashville, N.C., native, Maj. Wes Morrison, executive officer, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 120th CAB. Morrison was Salau's company commander in 2004.

"Hi, I'm Ed. I'm a Tuskhog."

-Retired 1st Lt. Edwin Salau

"I saw him get on the medivac helicopter that day he was injured, and I was able to be there to see him get off the helicopter at Falcon, walking towards me," Morrison said.

Salau presented an American Flag to Morrison, and requested that the current 120th CAB Soldiers fly this flag over a free Iraq.

"In '04, we Tuskhogs were dreaming about that," Salau said. "It's just to honor all those who sweat, bleed, and died to make that happen."

Salau said he was very thankful for the opportunity to return to Iraq and believes strongly in the program that is helping many Soldiers, like him, find peace.

"I think Operation Proper Exit is very important because U.S. service members who have bled for Iraq deserve to see, first hand, all the progress being made as this mission is being accomplished," Salau said. "Additionally, it provides Soldiers an opportunity to find closure."

"The Iraqi commanding general of the Iraqi army brigade, which defends the area where I was shot, shook my hand and told me he, and his family, will always remember my sacrifice and my efforts to free his country. That statement meant my injury, and that my friends' injuries and deaths have not been in vain. I was able to see it first-hand," Salau said.

Retired 1st Lt. Edwin Salau with his prosthetic leg pointed upward, poses for a photograph with 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Falcon Oct. 13. Salau was deployed to Iraq with the 120th Combined Arms Battalion, 30th HBCB where he lost part of his leg during an ambush Nov. 14, 2004 and thanks to Operation Proper Exit, was able to return to Iraq and reunite with friends of the 30th HBCB who are currently deployed.



Mandatory fun day for Special Troops Battalion

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan

"Mandatory fun," is military slang for morale events, but for Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Falcon, south of Baghdad, no arm twisting was needed.

The command of the 30th Special Troops Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team hosted the party, Oct. 3, with a barbecue, games and raffle for the unit's Soldiers and guests.

"It is for the morale of the Soldier," said Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Wyrick of Salisbury, N.C. "A break of the everyday routine and they can be themselves."

More than 160 burgers and chickens roasted over open flames as Soldiers lined up for the feast.

"The grill gives them a taste of home," said 1st Sgt. Douglas Lodge of Company E, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, attached to the 30th BSTB.

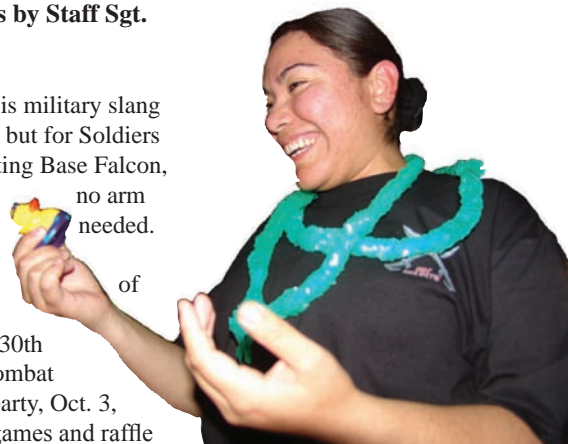
Soldiers competed in horseshoes games and ping pong tournaments as the food cooked.

"For mandatory fun, it was pretty fun," joked Staff Sgt. Dawn Jones, a human resources specialist from Durham, N.C.

As nearly 100 Soldiers ate and chatted, and disc jockey Sgt. Timothy Davis of Salemburg, N.C., kept the party going. After the meal, he played a mix of pop and dance music from AC/DC to Frankie



Sgt. 1st Class John Best, a platoon sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, grills burgers and chicken for Soldiers at a battalion morale event at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Oct. 3.



Beverly Lynnyrd.

"You have to watch the [dancers] and see what they like."

The highlight of the event was the raffle of the day's rank. Soldiers who bought tickets got a chance to be honorary leaders for a day. The money raised is set to go toward an end of tour memorial coin.

"It is fun, exciting. The raffle shows that specialist or private what it feels like to be a captain or first sergeant," said Spc. Addla Gomez of Durham, N.C. "We can get an idea how their day goes."

One winner took no time issuing her first order as first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th BSTB.

"I am dropping all of ya'll. Formation at 0001 hours," said Spc. Schjuana Suggs of Knightdale, N.C., referring to making everyone do pushups together just after midnight.

"It's like a reunion," said Jones. "I'm kinda glad they made me come."

Micro-grant Assists Iraqi Renovations

Story and photo by Spc. Ruth McClary

A businessman from Risalah, in southern Baghdad's Rashid District, renovated his grocery store after receiving a U.S. military sponsored micro-grant.

Mohammed Majed Hassin Sameen purchased shelves, an awning, a freezer, refrigerator, painting supplies and food to stock his shelves from a June micro-grant provided by Soldiers from Company D, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

"Before the renovations, the store was absolute garbage; the food on the shelves was out-of-date and the supplies were limited," said 1st Lt. John Burt. "Now it looks like a regular little store."

"From this micro-grant, he was able to stimulate the economy with his purchases and now runs a successful business that is an asset to the community," said Burt, of Fuquay-Varina, N.C.

During a joint mission, Oct. 1, Burt, along with partnered Iraqi federal police headquartered across the street from Sameen's store, dropped by to congratulate him on upgrades made with micro-grant funds.

"I was surprised when I walked

up to see all the changes he made," said Burt. "We had driven by a few times and saw the new paint on the outside, but when we walked up, there was lighting and air conditioning inside and fresh supplies for the community."

"He did exactly what he said he would do with the money."

U.S. troops asked Sameen if he could remove plastic toy handguns stocked at the store as part of a turn-in weapon campaign. The toys are difficult to distinguish at first glance from real weapons on the street. Sameen understood and said he would get rid of them.

"The federal police are trying to get the public to turn in weapons and we are trying to discourage kids from playing with toy guns," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Lytton.

"Looks like Sameen spent the money well, completely stocking his shelves with items that people within the block can definitely use," said Lytton, of Goldston, N.C.

"This is an example of how a micro-grant can greatly impact the community by providing assistance to a local business and gaining rapport for the Federal police and U.S. forces working in Risalah," said Burt.



Mohammed Majed Hassin Sameen, who received a micro-grant Jun. 25, from Company D, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, stands in his newly renovated grocery store, Oct. 1. Sameen used the money wisely making noticeable changes in a two month period. Additions included an awning, shelves, a refrigerator, freezer, paint, and supplies to stock his shelves. (U.S. Army Photo courtesy of 252nd Combined Arms Battalion)

Climbing the walls

at COP Meade

Photo and Story
by Staff Sgt.
Robert Jordan

Some Soldiers just hang around when off duty, while others feel like climbing the walls; Soldiers at Combat Outpost Meade, south of the city, do both.

Sgt. Derek Taussig, Sgt. Heath Alexander and Spc. Daniel Mahadeen, all of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 113th Field Artillery, built an outdoor rock climbing

wall, here, for morale and exercise.

"We love to climb and a lot of people could use it.

It's a community thing," said Alexander.

The three used plywood sheets and bolted artificial climbing rocks across the structure to create the 12 foot high by 45 foot wide wall.

Camouflage netting shades the wall, situated between concrete blast barriers, inside the compound.

"Everyone joked that we were building a house," said Mahadeen Taussig, from Winston-Salem, N.C., who worked as a contractor before the deployment, had the building skills.

Charlotte, N.C. natives,

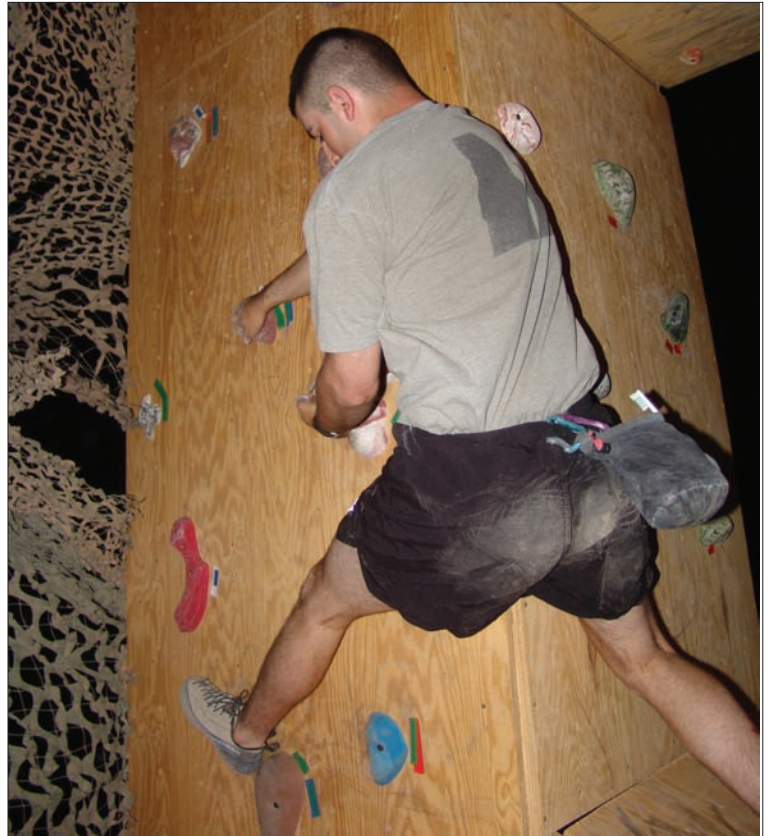
Alexander, an experienced climber, and Mahadeen, who worked as a climbing instructor, had the knowledge to plan a challenging wall.

Their greatest obstacle to overcome was getting the materials for the wall and the time in which to build it.

"We collected wood here and after a supply run to other [forward operating bases] we would bring back more," said

Sgt. Jose Ramirez, one of the first climbers to use the wall.

The Soldiers



Spc. Daniel Mahadeen, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 113th Field Artillery, hangs on a rock climbing wall built by Soldiers at Combat Outpost Meade in Iraq, Oct. 19.

scrounged for the tools, wood and other essential building materials for two months.

All that was missing now was the rocks.

"Chaplain Thomas Watson's home church helped out covering the cost of the rocks," said Alexander.

The rocks were shipped by a climbing supply company at cost.

"When the rocks arrived it was like Christmas," said Ramirez.

Several nights of off duty labor, sometimes lasting until 3 a.m., and the wall was finished.

"It was easier than it looked and worked out better than we thought it would," said Taussig.

Soon the builders were climbing every day and several other Soldiers wanted to learn how as well.

"About 30 Soldiers have

climbed," said Mahadeen. "Everyone loves it; you can exercise and have fun."

The rocks are color coded for different types of climbs.

Easier climbs use large rocks and are generally straight up, while the harder levels have smaller rocks, and the path is at an angle.

The harder climbing routes often find the climber hanging by their fingertips.

"Half an hour on the wall and your upper body is spent," said Ramirez.

"There is one path that is the most difficult," he said.

The climber starts crouched on a 3 foot high section just off the ground as the rest of the wall angles backwards over the climber's head.

"It is named after the one who climbed it; 'Ramirez's Torment'."

CUSTOMS RULES

“The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly”

By MAJ Robert C. Kemp, III

For our former veterans, it is that time of year again. No, not the Holiday Season, but the time to prepare for redeployment to CONUS.

As 30th HBCT soldiers begin to get excited about going home in the next few months, planners and staffers are preparing the movement of large amounts of unit and personal gear for the trip home.

Therefore, each soldier should know the U.S. and Military Custom Rules that must be adhered to and followed, as he or she begins to pack. The rules have changed since the 30th HBCT was here in 2004. Although the prohibition of firearms, artifacts, Cuban cigars, fresh fruit and vegetables still exist (For an exhaustive list please check with your command or the PMO portal page.), new prohibitions are now in effect. The most notable change is in the field of counterfeit articles.

The days of buying and carrying home

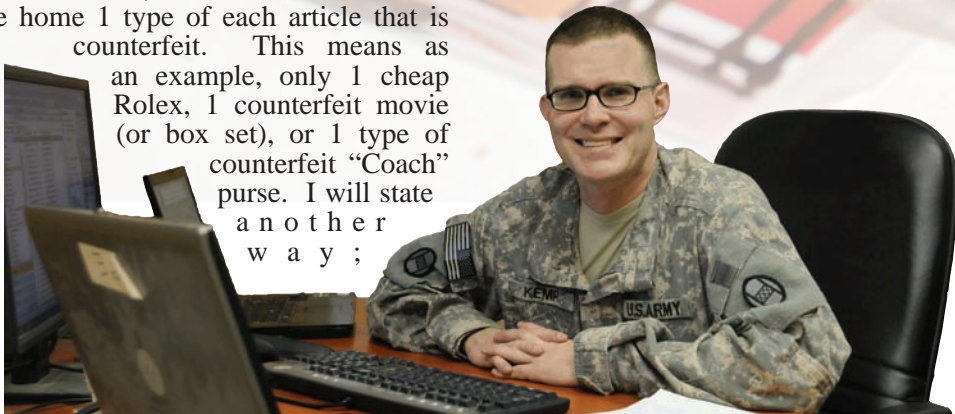
cheap Rolexes, blurry movies, and “knock-off” purses are over. The rule now states as follows:

AT 19 CFR Section 148.55, Customs has promulgated regulations which provide for the importation of one article of a type bearing an unauthorized protected trademark. Importation of quantities greater than one article of a type bearing an unauthorized trademark are subject to the provisions of 19 CFR Section 133.24. In other words, soldiers are allowed to take home 1 type of each article that is counterfeit. This means as

an example, only 1 cheap Rolex, 1 counterfeit movie (or box set), or 1 type of counterfeit “Coach” purse. I will state another way ;

all those movies you have bought at the Bizarre will be left here, except one. So, pick your favorite and discard the others.

The customs process is long and tedious. The agents will be checking your bags deliberately and thoroughly. Therefore, you will hinder and slow the process, if you try to sneak contraband in your bags. Do us all a favor, follow the rules, be safe and let us get everyone home to their loved ones!



Fighting Father Phil Got A Plan?

Homecoming was a stressful time for me and it can be for you. Taking it slow and easy helps and so does having a plan.

Take it slow. Sometimes going slow is the fastest way to get somewhere. Some things, like intimacy, can't be rushed. I like the old infantry adage: slow is easy, easy is smooth, and smooth is fast. Going slow when you get home gives everyone time to adjust. It was a big adjustment to separate for 15 months. It will take time to adjust when you go home.

Get real. Expectations run high with homecoming, so get a reality check. Soldiers talk to your spouse, significant other, family or friends about your expectations. You can't do it all, especially not right away. Those at home do the same with your Soldier who is coming home. Be realistic.

Talk about vacations, trips, or vacations. When the ship leaves the dock is not the time to find out that mom and dad are joining you on your second honeymoon. Talk about finances, family gatherings, purchases, sex, that honey-do list that awaits Soldiers coming home, and anything else that needs talking about.

Negotiate any differences you have. If you can't come to agreement, note it for later discussion. If you still can't come to common ground get some help from a chaplain or counselor.

Make a plan. Just like any other military operation make a plan. It won't guarantee a perfectly smooth road, but it will help you get through rough spots together with those you love.

Be patient with your family:

- Take it slow
- Get real
- Communicate
- Negotiate
- Make a plan



Fight the good fight!

Chaplain (LTC) Phillip Glick
30th Brigade Chaplain

120th Combined Arms Battalion "T

Photos by Sgt. Mary Phillips

During the month of October, Soldiers of the 120th Combined Arms Battalion were busy with a variety of missions.

Tuskhog Soldiers performed clearance operations in the Mahmudiyah market, searched for weapons caches and provided security during humanitarian aid drops.

These photos highlight a few of these missions in the Mahmudiyah area.



“uskhogs” on patrol in Mahmidyah



Old Hickory Soldiers decked-out after Fire

By Spc. Ruth McClary

Like a scene from the TV series, “MASH”, Soldiers of Company C, 230th Brigade Support Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, known as “Charlie Med”, evacuate and immediately set-up a temporary medical station after a fire stifled operations at the troop medical center on Forward Operating Base Falcon, Oct. 27. An electrical fire led to the destruction of the pharmaceutical vault and a section of the medication storage area. Charlie Medics resumed operations within two hours on the back deck of the facilities.

“Charlie Med is always operational,” said Sgt. 1st Class Barbara Campbell, of Wilmington, N.C. “Whether in transit or combat, here or moving around, patient care comes first.”

Spc. Crystal Fischer, of Greer, S.C., was the first to smell smoke and alerted Sgt. Kristina Laulis, of Greenville, N.C. Spc. Zachary Haunsperger, one of the medics, discovered a smoldering wire in the space between ceiling tiles and the roof which connected to a fluorescent light in the office.

“I told Haunsperger if he was going to be stupid enough to climb up there, at least take a fire extinguisher with him,” said Laulis. “He sprayed it a couple of times and we made him climb down.”

The fire alarm sounded, the fire department was called and an announcement was made to clear the building. KBR Incorporated provided a trailer to house the two patients who were being seen at the time of the fire. First Lt. Heather McGhee, of Fayetteville, N.C., was in the middle of giving a patient an IV as the alarm sounded.

“It was very thick, very nasty smoke and it happened so fast,” said McGhee. “Thick smoke came rolling down the hallway. I said, ‘Oh my God, it’s a fire.’ We were only outside for about a minute when white and brown clouds of smoke came from the roof.”

“Based on the smoke I thought the hallway was gone,” said health care provider Col. Robert Blok, of Charlotte, N.C.

Once patients and staff were accounted for and the fire was extinguished, the mass casualty box located on the perimeter of the center was opened and a temporary medical station was set-up on the back deck of the facility. The team had the station up and running when the first patient arrived two hours after the incident.

Mass casualty boxes full of medical supplies to include bandages, airway kits, tourniquets and splints are located in 12 high traffic locations on the base such as the Post Exchange, dining facilities and the gymnasium.

“Whatever we do inside [in terms of patient care]; we can do outside,” said Staff Sgt. Shawn Marshall, of Dallas. “It’s called tailgate medicine.”

Pfc. Kevin Jensen, of Millers Creek, N.C., received treatment after the fire. He sat on a gurney, hooked up to an IV with a front seat view of the flight line as flies darted around him.

“I didn’t know there was a fire,” said Jensen. “I walked up and saw a sign that directed me around back. I think the level of care is the same as if I were inside.”

Due to the quick response of the base fire department; which arrived within minutes, the pharmacy was not completely demolished. Several bins of medicine were recovered and there were enough supplies on hand to tend to patients in need of care.

All of the physicians have a personal stash of meds. Therefore, operations can continue until medications destroyed can be

replenished. Although the electricity was turned off, the TMC was completely functional from the back deck.

The dentist performed routine assessments and completed work that didn’t involve electricity on scheduled patients and physical therapy patients were only inconvenienced by one day.

“Everyone was way on target and did an awesome job setting up the temporary facilities for patient care,” McGhee said.



(top to bottom) Smoke billows from the top of the troop medical center from a fire allegedly caused by an electrical short in the lighting fixture at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Oct. 28. Pfc. Kevin Jensen is one of the patients treated after a fire at the troop medical center, Oct. 28. First Lt. Stephanie Fregeolle packs undamaged medications from the pharmacy, Oct. 28.

Comedy Corner

Ode to FOB Falcon

By Sgt 1st Class Brian McCarthy, 30th HBCT
 Baghdad, why do you taunt me so?
 I hear the horn of the crazy car outside the walls, but I cannot join in the fun.
 I am a guest of FOB Falcon. I am here until I'm gone,
 The calendar mocks me and the sun laughs.
 The PX sells things I don't need, and books I don't read,
 PX, why do you taunt me?
 Chow hall full of all that is good and right with the world,
 Why do you show me your treats and trick me into being fat?
 Bazaar, why do you taunt me into buying all the seasons of the worst shows ever for just 10 dollars?
 Volleyball court, I'm not even going to address you.
 Air force athletics department, why have you deployed robots to FOB Falcon, only to defeat us in every sporting event?
 Falcon gym, thank you for having mirrors showing me running and seeing every jiggling inch of myself, that's a cruel joke and nobody's laughing...well maybe there are, but it's not very nice.
 Laundry, I don't know how you wash my clothes in 24 hours, but it is a delight indeed, did you really wash them or just fold them and put them back? Well I guess that's your secret.



MAN'S BEST FRIEND
 By Spc. McPhear, of the 30th HBCT

PVT MURPHY



The 30th Infantry Division Association (30 IDA) was created in September of 1946. The organization, then named, "The Triple X Club," was a conglomeration of the original units of the 30th Infantry Division from Georgia, Tennessee and North and South Carolina. It was decided back then that an all-inclusive organization be created that would honor the historical achievements, fallen comrades and fellowship created amongst all 30th Infantry Soldiers. Now, the group meets annually in order to check in with fellow 30th IDA members and share the experiences of years past. Recently, a group of members and former members of the 30th Infantry Division and the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team met in Clinton, North Carolina, on February 10, 2006, and formally pledged to continue this organization and the legacy of the 30th Division. We need you to help bring new blood and experience to this prestigious organization. This group now offers to any Soldier desiring to perpetuate the friendships formed in service during the deployment that is attached or assigned to "Old Hickory" during combat operations, the opportunity to participate in the 30th Infantry Division Association. Please send in your application today to help continue this valuable part of the heritage of "Old Hickory." (See back cover)



Tribute To Twin Brothers of the 30th Infantry Division



Roy L. Booher, Company K, 119th Sgt. Ray G. Booher, Company B, 120th

Roy Booher was killed on September 12th, 1944 near Vise, Belgium. Ray Booher was wounded in Normandy, once again at Mortain, again at Aachen after which he spent most of October / November 1944 in hospitals near Paris. He stayed a few weeks in the hospital, went AWOL and hitched a ride back to his Company B, 120th Regiment. Months later, Ray was severely wounded in action near Thirimont, January of 1945, and finally sent home.

At the outbreak of WWII, one of the twins was drafted, no one remembers which one, so the other twin joined at the same time. It was against policy for brothers to serve in the same regiment, but the military did put them in the same division, the 30th Infantry, but with Roy going to the 119th Regiment and Ray to the 120th Regiment.

Somewhere in a small French village at the beginning of August, 1944, the 119th and 120th passed thru each other. Ray told family members that as he was walking through this town when Roy yelled down to him from a porch where he was sitting. They had a joyous reunion for about 30 minutes - it was the last time they would ever see each other. Ray later said he got word about Roy's death from some of the 119th boys just a day or so after it happened.

A local Belgian resident, Mr. Brouwers Sr., was an eye witness to Roy's death. The Americans were moving through Noorbeek. Just outside of the village, K Company of the 119th was in the lead and met stiff German resistance. Mr. Brouwers Sr. saw the GIs coming and wanted to warn them about the Germans nearby. Roy Booher (119th K. Co) with another GI, went forward to look over the "hill" to see were the Germans were. Roy Booher was on the left hand side of the road. He had to go over a hedge and when he did, that's when he was shot. Mr. Brouwers does not know if a medic went to him. He only knows that the K Company halted. About an hour later 3 planes came over and raked the German position with machine gun fire. L Company of the 119th then attacked through Bergenhuizen on the left wing and took Terlinden (high ground). A local woman, who was a nurse, was then able to examine Roy Booher's body which was still in the field.

Ray was wounded himself just a couple of weeks later. He was transported to Paris to a hospital. He stayed a few weeks, then went AWOL from the hospital, hitched a ride back up to the front and rejoined Company B of 120th. On Jan. 14 or 15, 1945, Ray was severely wounded near Thirimont. He was shot in the hips from a machine gun. This time he was sent home, stayed in hospitals for several months. He managed to have a good life. Married, had three sons, owned and operated a chicken ranch in Fullerton California, and later in Norco California. He died in Corona California in April of 1980 and is buried in a military cemetery near Riverside California.

Application for 30th IDA Membership And Payment of Annual Dues

Mail To: Norman Walls
30th Infantry Division Association
Membership Chairman Forward
Building 1203
FOB Falcon, IRAQ

Date _____

___ I am inclosing Membership/Annual Dues of \$15.00* please indicate which year.

___ I am including \$125* for a Life Membership.

*I am also enclosing a donation of \$_____ to the General Fund to help subsidize the printing and postage for our less fortunate members. (Donations are Tax Deductible.)

Please send my 30th Division News to: (Please Print Legible)

Name: _____ Spouse's Name _____

**Street: _____ City: _____ State _____ ZipCode _____

**Phone _____ Email _____

Former 30th Wartime Unit BN _____ CO _____ PLT/SECTION _____

Please make checks payable to the "30th IDA".

*You can pay MAJ Norman Walls in cash or check made out to 30th IDA, be aware due to snail mail delays checks are not always cashed on a timely basis.

** No addresses or phone numbers are given out to any outside sources.