

Hammer lights it up with Santa



3rd HBCT Soldiers hold tree-lighting ceremony

SGT. NATALIE ROSTEK
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — Soldiers of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team attended a Christmas tree lighting ceremony Dec. 8 at FOB Hammer to welcome a Christmas season spent with their Army family.

"I enjoyed the ceremony. It was very motivating and very uplifting," said Staff. Sgt. Derrick Mears, a communications NCO in Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

The ceremony began with the Dickens Carolers

Spc. Ben Hutto

Col. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr. and his 3rd HBCT Soldiers wave Chemlights while singing Christmas carols during a tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 8 at FOB Hammer.

See TREE, Page 3

Girl gets gift of mobility

SGT. KEVIN STABINSKY
2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — An Iraqi girl suffering from a disease limiting her ability to walk received the gift of mobility Dec. 7 thanks to Coalition Forces.

Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., delivered a wheelchair to 15-year-old Suha

Hussein Yas, who has a disease similar to polio.

The disease left Yas unable to walk since birth, said 1st Lt. Greg Highstrom, fire support officer, Company B.

The Soldiers first learned of Yas' plight while setting up Patrol Base Hawkes.

Wanting to build a good rapport with the local citizens, the Soldiers began to move into the



1st Lt. Greg Highstrom

Suha Hussein Yas smiles as she sits with her family in her wheelchair, a gift from Soldiers of Co. B, 1-30th Inf. Regt., Dec 7 near PB Hawkes.

See GIFT, Page 3

Enhanced re-up bonus to decrease

SPECIAL TO THE DOG FACE DAILY

CAMP VICTORY — The current enhanced selective re-enlistment bonus message may expire after Jan. 1. Soldiers should take advantage of the current monetary incentives possibly available by re-enlisting before the end of December.

Currently, Soldiers can re-enlist and may be eligible for a flat-rate lump-sum bonus of up to \$33,500, depending on their current expiration term of service date and military occupational specialty.

"The current bonus format has been around since the mid-summer and greatly simplified determining what amount Soldiers get," said Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Raibon, the 3rd Infantry Division command career counselor.

Soldiers should take advantage of this opportunity to get the most money upon re-enlisting since the current bonus message may expire or decrease soon, said Raibon, a native of Tyler, Texas.

"The current enhanced selective re-enlistment bonus program took effect on Oct. 1 and may expire Jan. 1," Raibon added.

While bonuses are not the sole reason Soldiers re-enlist, they should take this opportunity to receive the most money for their decision to continue to

"The current enhanced selective re-enlistment bonus program took effect on Oct. 1 and may expire Jan. 1."

— Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Raibon
3rd Inf. Div. command
career counselor

serve, he said. The office of the Army G-1 has said that if the bonuses don't go away, the flat-rate amounts will at least go down.

"The three re-enlistment bonus zones remain the same and are broken down by the amount of active service a Soldier has," said Master Sgt. James Nicolai, 3rd Inf. Div. retention operations NCO.

Soldiers can only qualify for a bonus once in each zone, Nicolai added. The zones are: A Zone (up to six years of service), B Zone (between six and 10 years), and C Zone (between 10 and 14 years).

Soldiers who ETS prior to Oct. 1 are eligible to receive a higher lump sum bonus provided they meet all the other criteria set by the Army.

Furthermore, this message breaks bonuses down into three categories:

military occupational skill (critical and special critical), deployed locations, and assignment location.

The current enhanced selective re-enlistment bonus message allows Soldiers deployed to Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan to re-enlist and receive a bonus. The same rules apply as in any SRB, except this bonus is MOS immaterial. Additionally, Soldiers who are only qualified to re-enlist and add one to 11 months of additional obligated service may now qualify for an SRB under this message.

"Soldiers are re-enlisting because they are proud to serve, the bonus is an additive," Raibon said.

Only one percent of our nation serves in the military, which simply means that these great men and women who re-enlist protect the other 99 percent — they are truly amazing, he added.

"We can never pay Soldiers enough bonus money to keep them doing what they do every day to keep our 'Army strong,' but we want to provide them with information to assist them in making an informed decision," Nicolai said.

For more information on current and upcoming programs in retention, Soldiers can see their servicing career counselor. Soldiers can also contact the 3rd Inf. Div. re-enlistment office at DSN (318) 822-7020.

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THE Dog Face Daily

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3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division
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7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
Mobile Unit 3 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion

GIFT: Soldiers give Iraqi girl wheelchair

From Page 1

community, said Highstrom, from Cedarbird, Wis.

Meeting Yas and seeing her need, the company pushed for assistance from their higher command at the battalion.

Eventually the battalion was able to get a wheelchair for Yas.

"It was one of the coolest things I've been a part of," Highstrom said. "The smile on her face was pretty infecting. It just affected you."

The Soldiers plan to continue their positive relationship with the local residents, a partnership that has paid high dividends in terms of security in the area.

By interacting positively with the community, Soldiers are able to win their trust, while gaining more information that helps purge insurgents from the area.

CORRECTION

In the Dec. 11 issue of *The Dog Face Daily*, the front-page caption under the military police companies' transition of authority photo should have read: "The 984th MP Co. 1st Sgt. Leif Arneson and commander, Capt. Mark Daley, case the company's guidon Dec. 9 in a TOA ceremony at FOB Delta."



Spc. Ben Hutto

Santa Claus, played by Maj. Rhett Griner, tosses candy into a crowd of 3rd HBCT Soldiers during a Christmas tree lighting ceremony Dec. 8 at FOB Hammer.

TREE: Hammer Soldiers celebrate holidays

From Page 1

from Columbus, Ga., singing Christmas songs through a live video teleconference set up by 3rd HBCT's communications section.

Col. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 3rd HBCT commander, said the carolers had done a great job singing for the brigade last Christmas at Fort Benning, Ga., which gave him the idea for them to sing to the brigade during this year's tree-lighting ceremony.

"I am standing here truly amazed," Grigsby said, initiating a round of applause to all 3rd HBCT Soldiers who were helped out with the ceremony.

"Commo did a great job," Mears said. "They put in a lot of hard work and I am proud of them. The carolers were great. I'm glad they took the time out of their busy schedules to sing for the Soldiers."

Grigsby thanked the carolers for their time and effort.

"You don't know how much it means to the Soldiers over here to hear and see you sing," he said. "It brings nor-

malcy to the tough life we have had here for the past nine months. It does our hearts good."

Grigsby then addressed his Soldiers, expressing his pride in all they have accomplished since their arrival at FOB Hammer in April.

"You are the best brigade combat team in the U.S. Army. You are amazing. You are just incredible," he said. "You guys deserve this. You guys earned this."

The crowd then gathered around the dark Christmas tree, broke out their Chemlights and counted down. The cheered as the tree was lit and special guest Santa Claus, played by Maj. Rhett Griner, tossed candy to the audience and then posed for pictures with Soldiers in front of the Christmas tree.

"The ceremony was great," said Spc. Cynthia Clabaugh, from Lancaster, Calif., Company A, 3rd BSTB. "It looked really cool when they turned out the lights and had the Chemlights going and the tree lit. It reminded me of a party. I appreciate them doing all that for us."

Safety Thought of the Day

Watercraft Safety

- There were two drownings in the past year, when personnel used civilian boats to investigate an island.
- When using watercraft for missions, composite risk management must be used to identify and mitigate risks.
- Questions to ask:
 - Are Soldiers properly trained to man boats?
 - Life vests versus body armor?

- Do we have effective rescue equipment?
- Risk control examples
 - Identify Soldiers with strong boating experience.
 - Ensure additional boats are available in case a boat capsizes.
 - Ensure floatation devices are available and can handle weight of Soldier, body armor, and equipment.



Headline Highlights

UK's 'Christian Christmas'; creationist's lawsuit

Hands off Christmas, say religious leaders

LONDON (Reuters) — Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims joined Britain's equality watchdog Monday in urging Britons to enjoy Christmas without worrying about offending non-Christians.

"It's time to stop being daft about Christmas. It's fine to celebrate and it's fine for Christ to be star of the show," said Trevor Phillips, chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

"Let's stop being silly about a Christian Christmas," he said, referring to a tendency to play down the traditional celebrations of the birth of Christ for fear of offending minorities.

The threat of radical Islam, highlighted by the London suicide bombings by British Islamists in July 2005, prompted reflection about Britain's attitude to ethnic minorities and debate about whether closer integration was more important than promoting multiculturalism. Phillips, reflecting on media reports of schools scrapping nativity plays and local councils celebrating "Winter" instead of Christmas, feared there might an underlying agenda — using "this great holiday to fuel community tension."

So he joined forces with leaders of minority faiths to put out a blunt message to the politically correct — Leave Christmas alone.

"Hindus celebrate Christmas too. It's a great holiday for everyone living in Britain," said Anil Bhanot, general secretary of the UK Hindu Council.

Sikh spokesman Indarjit Singh said: "Every year I am asked 'Do I object to

the celebration of Christmas?' It's an absurd question. As ever, my family and I will send out our Christmas cards to our Christian friends and others."

Their sentiments were echoed by British Muslim leaders, who were also forthright last week in condemning Sudan for jailing a British teacher who let her pupils name a teddy bear Mohammad. Muslim Council of Britain spokesman Shayk Ibrahim Mogra said "To suggest celebrating Christmas and having decorations offends Muslims is absurd. Why can't we have more nativity scenes in Britain?"

More than 70 percent of Britons — some 41 million — said they were Christians, according to figures from the 2001 census.

Biologist says he was fired for beliefs

BOSTON (Reuters) — A Christian biologist is suing the prestigious Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, claiming he was fired for refusing to accept evolution, lawyers involved in the case said on Friday.

Nathaniel Abraham, an Indian national who describes himself as a "Bible-believing Christian," said in the suit filed on Monday in U.S. District Court in Boston that he was fired in 2004 because he would not accept evolution as scientific fact.

The latest U.S. academic spat over science and religion was first reported in The Boston Globe newspaper on Friday. Gibbs Law Firm in Florida, which is representing Abraham, said he was seeking \$500,000 in compensation.

The zebrafish specialist said his civil

rights were violated when he was dismissed shortly after telling his superior he did not accept evolution because he believed the Bible presented a true account of human creation.

Creationists such as Abraham believe God made the world in six days, as the Bible's Book of Genesis says.

Woods Hole, a federally funded non-profit research center on Cape Cod, said in a statement it firmly believed its actions and those of its employees in the case were "entirely lawful" and that it does not discriminate.

Abraham, who was dismissed eight months after he was hired, said he was willing to do research using evolutionary concepts but had been required to accept Darwin's theory of evolution as scientific fact or lose his job.

The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination dismissed the case this year, saying Abraham's request not to work on evolutionary aspects of research would be difficult for Woods Hole because its work is based on evolutionary theories.

Abraham said this condition was never spelled out in the advertisement for the job and that his dismissal led to severe economic losses, an injured reputation, emotional pain and suffering and mental anguish.

The case underscores tension between scientists, who see creationist views as anti-science, and evangelical Christians who argue that protections of religious freedom enshrined in the U.S. Constitution extend to scientific settings. Abraham, 35, is now a biology professor at Liberty University, founded by the Rev. Jerry Falwell, a Christian pastor and televangelist.

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3					1		2	
	1		6	2				

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC PHRASE OF THE DAY

Where did they come from? *im ni-en edge-oh?*