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December 30, 2009

## Combatives Tournament Hits Bucca

By Spc. Samuel Soza  
367th MPAD



CAMP BUCCA – Combatives-trained teams converged here, Dec. 19, for the All Iraq Combatives Tournament, including the 34th Infantry Division's team, "Absolute Red Bull", and members of the 204th Area Support Medical Center.

The tournament saw service members, and even one civilian, from all over Multi-National Division South compete in a double-elimination grappling tournament.

The team from "A" Co., 1st Bn., 866th Inf. Regt., also known as "Atilla 1", took the top spot, finishing with a team score of 100 points.

"Absolute Red Bull" took second place with 53 points, and the team from "C" Co., 2nd Bn., 127 Inf. Regt. clinched third place with 49.

First Lt. Joe Eitenmiller, intelligence officer for the 34th Inf. Div., one of the members of "Absolute Red Bull", won first place in the middleweight class in his first Modern Army Combatives tournament.

"I've never really done a lot of modern Army combatives," said the Ladysmith, Wis., native, "I've done a lot of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and I've been doing that about six or seven years. I won first place so that was pretty cool."

He also had the shortest match of the tournament.

"I got the fastest submission today. I submitted the battalion commander down here in 12 seconds," he said,

"So, whether or not we actually get home now," he joked, "I'm not sure if that's going to happen."

Coincidentally, the helicopter Eiten-

"I think it's important because there's nothing like it, even wrestling. That 'never quit, never stop, never surrender' attitude can carry on from the grappling ring out on to the battlefield for our Soldiers."

Sgt. Chris Burger, Team Leader  
"D" Co., 2nd Bn., 127th Inf. Regt.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

# Red Bull aviator practices twin passions of photography, flight while deployed to Iraq

By Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence   
MND-S

COB BASRA – When one loves one’s art no service seems too hard.

Just ask Chief Warrant Officer Mathew Rowley.

Rowley is a pilot deployed to southern Iraq who happens to be a photographer from **Great Falls**, Mont., or perhaps it’s vice versa.

As a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, Rowley is fulfilling a life-long dream. As an amateur photographer, Rowley takes photos, good ones, the kind you’d find in magazines, calendars or on inspirational posters.

More often than not, you’ll catch him wearing his aviator uniform, a goofy smile and an olive-drab satchel. Inside this bag is his Canon, his batteries, grips and three lenses: a standard lens for bright shots, a telephoto lens for candid shots and a wide-angle lens for everything else.

As a boy, Rowley came out of the great arid flats of Montana pulsing with a genius for pictorial art; with his first camera, he says he captured the essence of a hat.

“I was six,” Rowley recalled. “I took photos of this straw cowboy hat in a tree – like all different angles of just this cowboy hat.

“I thought I was the greatest photogra-



Photo illustration by Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence

*Chief Warrant Officer Mathew Rowley, a Great Falls, Mont., native and an aviator with “A” Co., 1st Bn., 189th Regt., practices photography in between flights. “In my camera bag I’ve got my camera body, battery, grip, my favorite lens, which is the 10-22mm lens,” Rowley said. “You catch a lot more action; the downside is you really have to be on top of the subject. Until they get used to you being in their space, they’re a little uncomfortable.”*

## HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

Great Falls takes its name from the series of waterfalls that the Lewis and Clark Expedition had to portage around, requiring 31 days of arduous labor, in their 1805-06 exploration of the Louisiana Purchase.

**PILOT**  
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# THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division  
Public Affairs Office



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Maj. Gen. Rick Nash



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-  12th Combat Aviation Brigade
-  367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

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

# A photographic day in the life of an aviator

Photo Essay by Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence  
MND-S



After both the aircraft and the gear are ready, each crew conducts a brief to bring up any possible issues with the bird. "We talk about the aircraft, if there's any discrepancies, issues with radios, issues with fluid levels," said Chief Warrant Officer Mathew Rowley, a pilot with "A" Co., 1st Bn., 189th Regt.

Photos by Chief Warrant Officer Mathew Rowley

Dawn breaks over Contingency Operating Bas Basra, and the pilots and crewmembers of the "A" Co., 1st Bn., 189th Regt. are already getting their birds ready for the day. The UH-60 Black Hawk can be a finicky machine, and a lot of work must be done before it can fly.



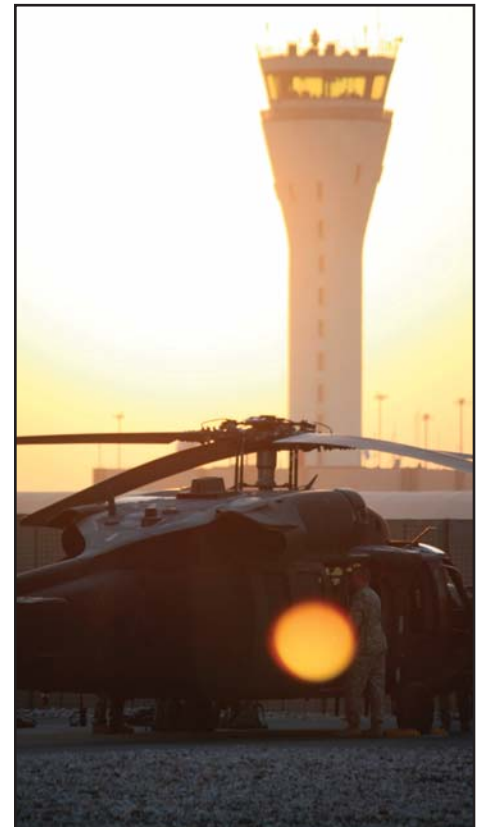
The life of a Black Hawk crewmember is a transitory one, and a day's work may involve hopping from one base to another for hours on end. Rowley recalled one particularly busy day: "We went up to Talil, dropped off a crew, immediately took off from Talil, went up to Endeavor, dropped off our customers, went to Echo, sat at Echo, got refueled, up to Endeavor, back down to Echo for refueling, back up to Endeavor, back down to Talil, got fuel and picked up a crew, and then back down to here."



Once the crew brief is done and the aircraft is ready, the crew piles into the aircraft. It's simply a matter of waiting for passengers now. "We'll sit there on the radio and wait for our customers," said Rowley.



A Black Hawk prepares to lift off for a night flight from Contingency Operating Base Basra. Crewmen must prepare to fly at night, and they must prepare to work long hours to fulfill the mission. "My longest flight period was seven and a half hours, but the day can last the full 14 hours," Rowley said.



Once the shift is over, the crew performs an in-depth post-flight inspection. As the pilot, Rowley washes the windows and attaches the nose cover, cleans off the struts and ties the blades down. Meanwhile, the rest of the crew inspects the aircraft and its parts and the pilot commander enters the flight into the logbook. Once that's all done, it's time to rest and recover, for tomorrow is another day.

**From Page 2****PILOT**

pher in the world," he said.

When Rowley grew up, he got a job with the local TV station, KTGF out of Great Falls, before hopping across town to work for the Great Falls' country station, KMON.

After that, he left to open his own photography business, where he happily snapped weddings and senior portraits and family gatherings.

Then, when a brokerage firm had an opening for a layout and design artist, he decided to give a try. Six years later, he felt burnt out from inflexible bosses, he recalled. After years working in television, radio and visual arts, Rowley felt he needed a change.

That's when he decided to fly helicopters.

"One of the guys who worked at the company used to be a [pilot]," Rowley says. "He was telling me all these stories about when he was in Vietnam. I kept hounding him and hounding him about flying helicopters. Finally, I think he just got tired of me talking about it, and he says, 'Why don't you talk to the recruiter about it?'"

Rowley went to his recruiter and told him he wanted to fly.

"I wanted to serve my country again," Rowley recalled. "I've always wanted to fly helicopters and I've always wanted to serve my country."

His prior service in the Marine Corps helped his case, and the recruiter was able to get him into an aviation unit, albeit as a fueler.

"I told everyone that I talked to that my only goal was to go to flight school," Rowley said, and he kept working and eventually got his ticket to flight school at the age of 31.

"Aviation has pretty much taken over my life," said Rowley, who considers himself a third-generation pilot. "I've always wanted to fly. This is the most challenging thing I've done."

In a not so surprising twist, Rowley the pilot was chosen to be his unit's historian, public affairs representative and de facto photographer. In between his shifts as a Black Hawk pilot for "A" Co., 1st Bn., 189th Regt., Rowley captures his unit's history with his camcorders and cameras.

It's not uncommon for him to work two or three hours after his shift, Rowley said, a feat duly recognized by his peers.

"If he put half the effort he put into photography and put that into flying, then we'd have something," one of his co-workers joked.

It's as if Rowley's art keeps catching up to him.

He can start flying helicopters; he can deploy to the other side of the Earth, and still he winds up with a camera in his hand.

When one loves one's art, whether that art is photography or aviation, no service – even a deployment – seems too hard.

For more of Pfc. Lawrence's stories, visit: [www.TheRedBulls.org/Lawrence](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Lawrence)



Photos by Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence

"I look for a lot of the words painted on the aircraft. I look for words on other things," Rowley said. "I try to incorporate foreground and background. That's why I like the wide-angle lens. You get a lot of background, a lot of foreground," said Chief Warrant Officer Mathew Rowley.



Chief Warrant Officer Mathew Rowley, the unit's historian and public affairs representative, said he has been taking pictures since he was six.

# Job Searching Strategy Sessions



*All sessions are in the Sandstorm Conference Room*

## **Session 1**

*"Seeking New Careers and Job Opportunities"*

*DEC 30, 1000-1200*

*JAN 1, 1800-2000*



## **Session 2**

*"Effective Resume Writing"*

*JAN 4, 1000-1130 or 1700-1830*

## **Session 3**

*"Interview Techniques and Preparation"*

*JAN 6, 1000-1130 or 1730-1900*

## **Session 4**

*"One on One Practical Interviews"*

*JAN 7-18*

*Schedule an Appointment with CW2 Yu*

*For additional information  
please contact CW2 Yu at  
[Michael.Yu@Iraq.Centcom.Mil](mailto:Michael.Yu@Iraq.Centcom.Mil)  
or at 858-4515*



## From Page 1 COMBATIVES

miller boarded to return to Contingency Operating Base Basra after the tournament was delayed at a nearby camp overnight, postponing his return by a day.

Another Soldier from "Absolute Red Bull", Capt. Elias Donker, with the governance section for the 34th Inf. Div., placed high in his weight class.

"I feel I put on a pretty dominating performance against my opponent to clinch second," said the heavyweight contender, "so I don't feel like I dishonored myself. I was pretty pleased with that fight all around.

The Fairbanks, Ind., native holds the Elite Cage Fighting Amateur Heavy Weight title in his home state and plans to enter the cage for his first professional mixed martial arts fight soon.

"I'm going to go fight one more amateur fight when I get home [defending his title] and then I'm going to go pro," he said, "It looks like the [pro] fight's going to be May 6th, in Nashville, Tenn., with the Gameness Fighting Championships."

The first place heavyweight contender, Sgt. Chris Burger, team leader with "D" Co., 2nd Bn., 127th Inf. Regt., was also pleased his performance.

"This was my first competition," he said, "In high school I was runner-up in state [wrestling competitions], I took second place, and being here, able to take the title, it felt great – like I was able to redeem myself from the past."

Competitors fought six-minute bouts and received points for successful technique, such as attaining a dominant position after a takedown.

Fighters won if they had the most points at the end of the time limit or submitted an opponent, making them tap out.

Combatants' performances also contributed to an overall team score, which not only motivated them do well individually, but to also coach and cheer their teammates as they advanced in the tournament.

Eitenmiller lauded "Absolute Rebull" for their efforts.

"We did really, really well," he said, "I think we found out about the tournament three or four weeks ago and we

just tried to piecemeal the team together as well as we could. Out of twenty four teams that competed we took second, and I think that's really awesome."

Donker was also proud of the team's accomplishments.

"We had one guy that came in first, one that came in second in their weight classes," he said. "We had two of the fastest submissions in the tournament. You can't beat that."

"Red Bull" Spc. Cary Cardinal, imagery analyst with the 34th Inf. Div., of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., also had a quick match, getting his opponent to tap-out by achieving an arm-bar in 19 seconds.

Teams and individual fighters were recognized in an awards ceremony after the tournament.

The fighters began their day around 8 in the morning, fighting in the preliminary rounds and finished with the finals, which included punches, slaps, and kicks.

Under Bucca's artificial lighting, finals matches were also extended to ten minutes.

Among the male Soldiers, Marines, and Sailors, three female fighters competed as well.

One of those was Staff Sgt. Crystal Wilson, 34th Inf. Div. intelligence analyst from Latham, N.Y.

"Staff Sgt. Wilson was one of the three females out of the one hundred and four fighters and she did a great job," said teammate Eitenmiller, "She's trained really hard."

Donker also said he was proud of Wilson and was glad to see female competitors.

"I loved that the females showed up," he said, "You know, it's always tough because males have a little bit of an advantage and you try to adjust that with the weight class.

## COMBATIVES Page 7

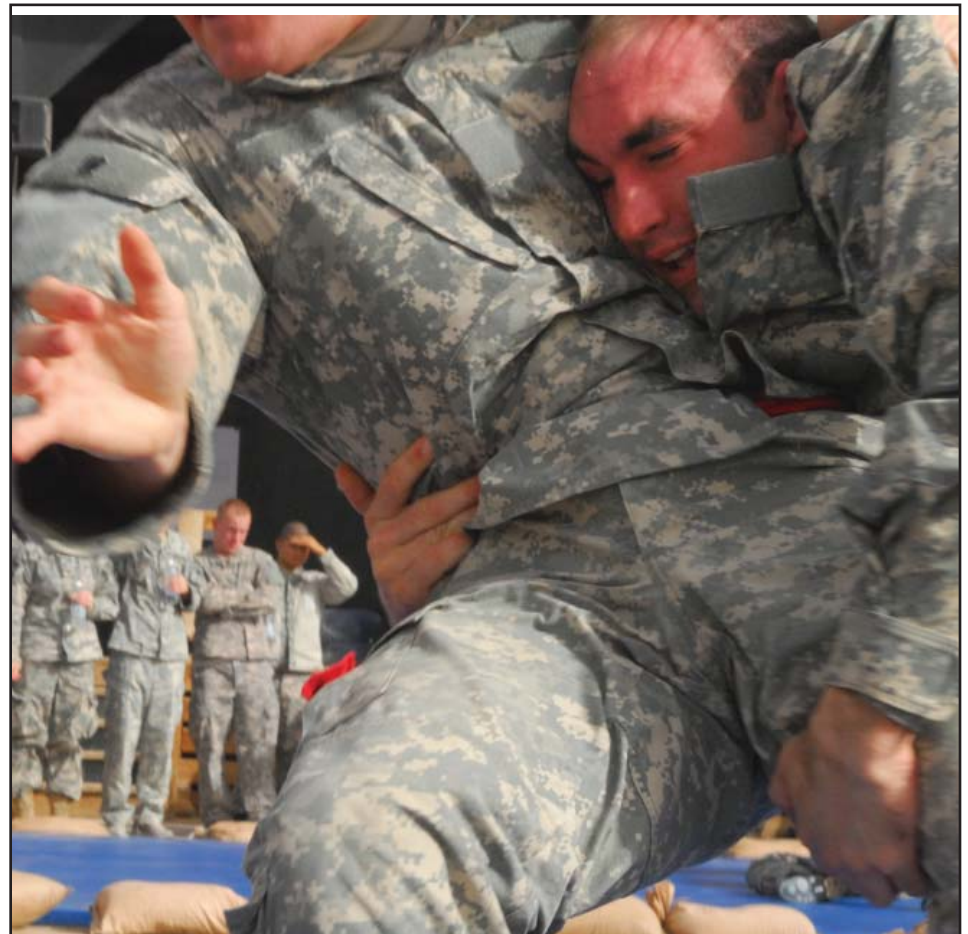


Photo by Samuel Soza

Soldiers take their grappling down from standing level to ground-fighting during the All Iraq Combatives Tournament. Teams from all parts of Multi-National Division South converged on the camp to take part in the grappling tournament.

**From Page 6**  
**COMBATIVES**

“But Staff Sgt. Wilson, for example, she made a male of equal weight with her, go six minutes to points for a decision,” he said. “That’s outstanding. And if she got in a situation where, let’s say, there’s an escaped detainee, one of us would have showed up in six minutes to help out.”

Skills learned in the combatives program are crucial for all Soldiers to know, said Burger.

“I think it’s important because there’s nothing like it, even wrestling,” he said, “That ‘never quit, never stop, never surrender’ attitude can carry on from the grappling ring out on to the battlefield for our Soldiers.”

“There’s no better way to build that than to do the stuff we did today,” he said.

Donker had similar feelings.

“There’s no way to replicate the Warrior Ethos training better than this,” he said, “Guys can stand in formation in their Class A’s and say ‘I will not desert a fallen comrade, I will not accept defeat’, you know, and their mouthing words.”

“Get out here with a guy your size, trying to choke off the blood to your brain, and ‘I will not accept defeat’ takes on a totally different meaning,” he said. “It’s a safe, effective way to learn that, and we produce better warriors.”

Eitenmiller agreed, saying that the combatives program is important not only mentally but physically as well.



Photo by Samuel Soza

Sgt. Breena Bieber, noncommissioned officer in charge of sick call for the 204th ASMC, native of Shakopee, Minn., struggles with an opponent. Bieber was one of three female fighters among the 104 competitors.

“Doing push-ups, sit-ups, two mile run kind of gets boring a lot and this really works every muscle in the body,” he said, “But it keeps Soldiers really motivated physically just to keep going, and going, and going.”

Burger, sitting atop 19 other heavy-weight competitors, stressed the importance for Soldiers to engage in the combatives program.

“Other Soldiers, get out there and do this,” he said, “If your leaders give you the opportunity to do it, take it, because

you don’t know how many you’re going to get.”


For more of Spc. Soza’s stories, visit: [www.TheRedBulls.org/Soza](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Soza)



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**ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY**

Tayib - OK



كلمة من اللغة العربية



**NEW YEARS EVE PARTY**  
**MWR Tent**  
**2100 to 0100**  
Guitar Hero BlackJack Texas Hold'Em Cribbage Tournament  
Grand Prize: Playstation 3  
Also Snacks & Other Prizes  
**Red Devils Rock Band** **DJ Johnny J**

# Word Search:

## PIZZA

B A O N T L P O S E O T A M O T C H  
 A K O G I O Y E N A S E M R A P V I  
 C E C S A S M O P S U S C R T S H I  
 O C A A T I L A K P H S T E E N M Z  
 N B S E J O S M T R E I A V F O E U  
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 O S T O N B E M T H S L O Z E L M C  
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- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| ARTICHOKE      | JALAPENOS     |
| HEARTS         | MONTEREY JACK |
| ASIAGO         | MOZZARELLA    |
| ASPARAGUS      | MUSHROOMS     |
| BACON          | OLIVE OIL     |
| BANANA PEPPERS | ONIONS        |
| BASIL          | OYSTERS       |
| BELL PEPPERS   | PARMESAN      |
| BLACK OLIVES   | PEPPERONI     |
| BROCCOLI       | PROVOLONE     |
| CRUST          | RICOTTA       |
| EGGPLANT       | SALAMI        |
| FETA           | SAUSAGE       |
| GARLIC         | SHRIMP        |
| GOAT CHEESE    | SPINACH       |
| GOUDA          | TOMATO SAUCE  |
| GREEN OLIVES   | TOMATOES      |
| GROUND BEEF    | ZUCCHINI      |
| HAM            |               |

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**3<sup>rd</sup>: Nike+ Sportsband**

# A Day of Memorialization and Commemoration at COB Basra

*You are invited to attend the dedication and memorialization ceremonies for buildings on COB Basra, December 31, 2009*



0800

Opening Ceremony and Dedication of the General John W. Vessey Headquarters Building honoring the service of a Red Bull Soldier who served as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Location: Division Main Headquarters Flagpole

0900

The Major Steven Hutchinson Memorial Band Hall  
Memorializing Maj. Steven Hutchinson, killed by an improvised explosive device in Basra on May 10, 2009.

0930

The Specialist Daniel P. Drevnick Memorial Gym/USO  
Memorializing Spc. Daniel P. Drevnick, A Red Bull Soldier killed by a rocket attack on COB Basra on July 16, 2009.

1000

The Specialist Carlos E. Wilcox Memorial Troop Medical Clinic  
Memorializing Spc. Carlos E. Wilcox, a Red Bull Soldier killed by a rocket attack on COB Basra on July 16, 2009.

1030

The Specialist James D. Wertish Memorial Post Exchange  
Memorializing Spc. James D. Wertish, a Red Bull Soldier killed by a rocket attack on COB Basra on July 16, 2009.

**The Basra Beat**

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Legal Assistance  
will no longer be  
open on Sundays  
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after Dec. 27

**Last Day for Fly a Flag program**  
**Saturday Jan. 2**  
Flags must be turned in by Jan. 1st  
Only 60 Slots available  
Turn in flags to RBVB

**USO hours** "A touch of home"  
sidewalk cafe  
guitar hero/rockband room  
Xbox/playstation "battle stations"  
theater  
phones/internet  
high-def tv  
new movie titles  
**open daily**  
**10 am till**  
**6 am**  
Located in the main gym

**Hair Cut!**  
Barber Shop hours:  
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Beauty Shop hours:  
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Funk Aerobics**  
Weds. & Fri.  
6 - 7 p.m.  
Main Gym, Ab room  
Instructor: Staff Sgt. Paul  
Gudding

## Around the world in 34 seconds



**KABUL** — As the U.S. and its allies try to overcome logistical hurdles and rush some 40,000 more troops to Afghanistan in 2010, intelligence officials are warning that the Taliban-led insurgency is expanding and that "time is running out" for the U.S.-led coalition to prove that its strategy can succeed. The Taliban have created a shadow "government-in-waiting," complete with Cabinet ministers, that could assume power if the U.S.-backed government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai fails, a senior International Security Assistance Force intelligence official said in Kabul, speaking only on the condition of anonymity as a matter of ISAF policy. As the Obama administration and its European allies face dwindling public and political support for the eight-year-old Afghan war, the Taliban now have what the official called "a full-fledged insurgency" and shadow governors in 33 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, including those in the north, where U.S. and other officials had thought the Islamic extremists posed less of a threat.



**HONOLULU** — President Barack Obama on Monday vowed to use "every element of our national power" to keep Americans safe and said the failed Christmas Day plot to blow up a Detroit-bound airliner was "a serious reminder" of the need to continually adapt security measures against changing terrorist threats. But even as Obama spoke, word came that a State Department warning had failed to trigger an effort to revoke the alleged attacker's visa. And officials in Yemen confirmed that the would-be bomber had been living in that country, where terrorist elements quickly sought to take credit for his actions. The incident prompted stiffer airport boarding measures and authorities warned holiday travelers to expect extra delays as they return home this week and beyond. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, charged with trying to destroy an aircraft, is being held at the federal prison in Milan, Mich. A court hearing that had been scheduled for Monday to determine whether the government can get DNA from him was postponed until Jan. 8. No reason was given.



**CHICAGO** — Brett Favre cranked up and made one more impossible throw, zinging a touchdown pass in the fading seconds. Too bad for the Minnesota Vikings, that merely put them into overtime. The Vikings lost again Monday night, beaten by the Chicago Bears 36-30 when Jay Cutler tossed a 39-yard strike to Devin Aromashodu. Minnesota fell for the third time in four games, and the defeat gave the New Orleans Saints homefield advantage throughout the NFC playoffs. "I know we're fortunate to be in the playoffs but we have to play better than we did the last few weeks or we'll be home fairly quickly," Favre said. "I'm just being honest as I can be." Playing for the first time since the dustup between the star quarterback and coach Brad Childress became public, the Vikings' late rally wasn't enough. After Favre's stunning, fourth-down pass to Sidney Rice with 16 seconds left in regulation, Cutler threw the game-winner with just over 9 minutes left in overtime to prevent the Vikings (11-4) from locking up a first-round playoff bye.



**SYDNEY** — How many unwanted gifts did you get under the Christmas tree? If you're Australian, the number is likely to be more than one, amounting to a nationwide total of 20 million "useless" presents, according to a survey. The survey, commissioned by online marketplace eBay, found that although Australians spent \$7.5 billion buying gifts this Christmas, at least A\$1 billion worth of these presents will either be left to gather dust in a cupboard, binned, regifted, exchanged or sold. Examples of unwanted gifts ranged from underwear, socks, bath products and inappropriately sexual items to a tandoori spice rub for chicken given to a vegetarian and a dog bowl for a dogless recipient, a brick and cellulite cream, an eBay statement said. An earlier survey showed that more than 825,000 gifts will go straight into the garbage bin in Australia this Christmas because their recipients just hated them.