



# Meet the ...

Hi folks. I'm the M1 Main Battle Tank and I've been helping my Soldier and Marine friends bring death and destruction to the enemy for more than 20 years now. Many of you know my older brother the M1-A1, but I'm the younger, more lethal version — M1-A2. But, please call me Abrams.

Some call me the "Cadillac of the Battlefield" after the smooth ride I provide. I can pack a pretty heavy punch and enjoy spewing out SABOT and HEAT rounds at whoever decides to mess with my friends.

Because terrorists like to blow up bombs and hurt my friends, I recently added a new kit to help keep everyone inside my shell safe. The Tank Urban Survival Kit may not look like much, but it's going to help deliver a decisive blow against the enemy that will make him regret the day he decided to bring a knife to a gun fight.

**Question:** You're the relative "old guy" on the block as far as Striker equipment goes, what advice do you have for everyone else?

**Answer:** Well, I always tell them that the guys and gals inside are more important than you are. Don't let the little things keep you from getting them where they need to go and always be ready to deliver a lethal strike on the enemy. You never know when you're going to be called into action.

**Q:** Currently, only four people can ride you into battle; are you making any changes to create more room?

**A:** I've got a pretty big deck that, if it weren't for those pesky "rules" I'd have a bevy of my friends sitting there and enjoying the smooth ride I can give them and the great view of things. But, until the sergeant major loosens up a bit, we'll be stuck with just the four-man crew.

**Q:** What are some features that others might be surprised to learn about you?

**A:** I don't know if it's a surprise, but I like to have cook outs. I like to go to the local supermarket and pick out a few lambs or goats to bring home to the family and grill them up just by revving my twin engines. It's a great way to broil the meat and only takes a few minutes. I've got a few great recipes that always please the crowd. Plus, in the winter you can warm up with just a few seconds behind the deck.

**Q:** Anything else you'd like to tell our readers?

**A:** I'd like to invite everyone to come out for a ride with me sometime. There's nothing like the feeling of ensuring the freedom of a developing nation while being surrounded by 72-tons of righteous indignation waiting to lurch into action at a moment's notice, should the need arise.

# 'Caption This' results



## Overflowing nominations

There was a large swell in nominations for this month's "*Caption This*" contest. Too many, in fact, that there isn't one winner; I'll print as many as I can in this section for you to enjoy.

**First:** Those that elected to have their names omitted from their submissions.

As chaos ensued after the IED exploded, members of CSD quickly pounced on ST6 to ensure his safety.

Members of the 3BCT CSD scramble for the treats that fell from the piñata.

Members of the 3BCT CSD scramble for a ticket home to participate on the comedy show, Last Comic Standing.

Members of the 3BCT CSD show off their UFC skills to the bewildered Iraqis.

3BCT CSD members show off their tenacity and dexterity to win in a wild game of Twister.

Members of the 3BCT CSD celebrate on hearing the news that the Village People are part of the USO tour.

Members of the 3BCT CSD celebrate on hearing that ST6 has temporarily suspended the Army's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

And now it's time for those that proudly stand by their captions enough to have their name associated with it:

Ok, enough with the grab-assin'. Get back to work — Staff Sgt. Weddle

These guys are looking for love in all the wrong places — Stella Hulse

And the N.E. Patriots thought the Giant's defense was tough? GO ARMY!! — Rhonda Brock

Look the boys still play "Dog pile on top!" Poor dog! — A Soldier's Sister

But first, Cheech! — John Miller

No watch here, NEXT!!!! — William Massella

Look for your next opportunity to prove your worth as a caption writer in the next edition of the Striker Beacon, which is due to hit inboxes sometime in early March (subject to change due to mission, contractors or whatever other excuse I can think of.)

My thanks go out to everyone who submitted a caption. Please keep them coming, that's the only thing that will keep this feature coming. I'm not creative enough to come up with enough. Send your pictures, ideas and captions to [zachary.mott@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:zachary.mott@iraq.centcom.mil).

## Strikers in Action

Are you interested in seeing more products on Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team? Good, me too. To see all of the products being produced by the Striker Public Affairs Office check out the following Web

sites:

[www.dvidshub.net](http://www.dvidshub.net) (create a log-on and surf away)

<http://pao.hood.army.mil/4ID/index.html> (click on news archives and search the 4ID library)

[www.newsblaze.com](http://www.newsblaze.com) (contains military

and Defense Department related news from around the world)

[www.blackanthem.com](http://www.blackanthem.com) (military related news from around the world)

[www.carson.army.mil](http://www.carson.army.mil) (Mountaineer is always available for download through the Public Affairs link)



# RE-UP ROUND-UP

## BLACKJACK

**SPC:** Nickolias Saucedo; David Beckworth; William Kuch; Christopher Tolbert; Daniel Brewer; Joshua Hagans; Justin Barker; Roberto Avila; James Gattison; David Crenshaw; Elgin Gilmore; Shannon Mallory; Sean Thornock; Dustin Baker; Ryan Stallings; Benjamin Vasi; Ramon Ortiz; Andrew Rhodes; Jonathan Glover; Michael Green; Matthew Tuttle; Brian Anderson  
**CPL:** Jon Horton  
**SGT:** Michael Luckey; Zachary Schertz; Leon Foster; Brandon Pelton; Daniel Almestica; Jeffrey Craft; Robert Croft; Paul Simister; Christopher Frederick  
**SSG:** Eric Smith; Brian Boisvert; Ronald Strahl; Matthew O'Keefe  
**SFC:** Matthew Dilcher; Logan Reiser; Antonio Rivera; Terry Evans

## FIGHTING EAGLES

**PFC:** Russell Mullen; Dillon Tanner; Nicholas Robinson; Ryan Smith  
**SPC:** Avila Castaneda; Benett Finalay; Shaun Tapie;; Charles Stein; Christopher Marro; Eric McDougall; Matthew Chain; Todd Goff; Joshua Benner; Patrick Yates; Corey Wilson; Samuel Harmon; Arthur Alsbrooks; Keith French; Clinton Kerry; Gabriele Sneed; George Mata; Matthew Tietjen; Lukus Cottrell; Dustin Pack  
**CPL:** Alexander Allen; Jason Hayes; Steven McCall  
**SGT:** Donald Williams; Scott Nimer; Micheal Johnson; Michael Minnix; Tyler Daly; Issac Howard; Matthew Davidson; Vineet Fletcher; Christopher Harrison; Joshua Jahelka; Timothy Puckett; Andrew Messick; Matthew Doyle; Jesus Ortega; Benjamin Conner; Gregory Stepankiw; James Catherson; Andrew Russell; Joseph Smith; Nathan Uraine; Peter Lehnartz; Steven Beard; Alan Craver; David Ortiz; Danny McKnight  
**SSG:** Joshua Rodriguez; Sammy Kay; Aaron McFarland; Matthew Harmon; Steven Hernandez; Cory Blackwell; Dustin Wheeland; Christopher Felton; Dono Williams; Jeremy Plowman; Wesley Nally; Craig Ullrich  
**SFC:** Felipe Cruz; Bradley Pierson; Jason Porras; James Moore

## SILVER LIONS

**PFC:** Brandon Wynn; James Lassack; Shawn Logan  
**SPC:** Justin Welch; Joseph Rundberg; Gary Muckelvaney; Cory Bushell; Mario Rivera; Gibson Njenga; Jacob Janssen; Timothy Lorenzen; Zachary Lindsley; Dante Herring; Eric Cobb; Donavon Sayre; Chad Daily; Robert Stearns; Matthew Wenzel; Carolyn McDonald; Darauith Kheao; John Algozzini; Myles Simpson; Timothy Price; Daniel Garcia; Derek Massey; Duncan Kiruthi; Jesse Ragsdale; Peter Benson; Steven Hatfield; Eugene Treft  
**SGT:** Christopher Miller; Kevin Orick; Lamar Pringle; Raymond Collazo; Jay Gaines; Joshua Vincenzi; Robert Rutar; James Sopala; Christopher Bryant; Michael Henry; Jeffrey Wilkerson; Cole Glackin; Darren Thomas; Forrest Sullivan; Justin Blankenship; Dustin Brawley; Jose Trejo; Vernon Marchington; James Anderson; Raymond Warlikowski; Stephen Roper; Carlos Rivera; Jesse Throckmorton;  
**SSG:** Cain Schuler; Patrick Donovan; Tony Fincher; Luis Hernandez; David Rocha; Oscar Carranza; Dennis Hunter; Paul Briscoe; Todd Findling  
**SFC:** Christopher Tolle; Raymond Hunt; Lanny McLaughlin; Anthony Lawrence

## PACESETTERS

**PFC:** Jonathan Facteau; Jeremy Payne; Stephen Canada; Eric Fitzgerald; Cory Wiggs; David Delao; Jade McDermaid; Alex Riofriecedeno; Joshua Hansmann; Hector Contreras  
**SPC:** Jason Nelson; Micheal Lee; Nathan McConnell; Christopher Kudirka; Chad Brewer; Christopher Durham; DJ Anderson; Carlos Nunez; Jack Horner; Adam Privett; Derrick Parizek; Marquez Berrian; Justin Colbert; James Hitch; Ronald Blair; Teddy Owens; Rhode Gachette  
**SGT:** Bob Chatmon; Dane Martin; Cesar Vazquez; Ramon Gutierrez; John Perniciaro; Christopher George; Jason Grant; Luis Rivera; Richard Herod; Clarence Antle; Patrick Hudson  
**SSG:** Kenneth Sargent; Marquel Waites; Nathan Hickson; Daniel Liegey

## MOUNTAINEERS

**PFC:** Josue Medina; Kala Mercer; Darnell Boyd; Beau McCormack  
**SPC:** Stacey Smith; Daniel Kiser; Dustin Logan; Brian Carrasco; Charmayne Jones; Samuel Rowland; Kimberly Grimsley; Jonathan Causey; Travis Hoyle; Robert Krupp; Kyle Muggli; Odalys Lopez; Jason Anderson; Orlando Gremillion; Damacio Matamoros; Edgar Cuevas; Jimmy Stone; Justin Zimmerman; Derrick Robinson; Keven Hilgers  
**SGT:** Noli Foronda; Jason Snyder; Lap Mui; Christian Nunez; Mario Vasquez; Amber Yazzie; Damon Chatterton; Rickey Smith; Donald Dickson; Michael Prince; Abelicio Gonzales; Reed Colovos; Michael Harpe; Troy Powell; John Dodson  
**SSG:** Hector Herrera; Christopher Johnson; Christopher Farrington; Flavia Goddard; Ryan Laclair; Ebony Talton; Tawana Batten; Ricardo Hamlin; Joseph Johnson; Francisco Alvarez; Edward Leivestad; Geronimo Larios; Justin Vanwegen; William May; Omar Riojas  
**SFC:** Marlon Anthony

## PHOENIX

**PFC:** Eric McIntosh; Danita Griffiths; James Duckworth; Nicole Brinkley; Kyle Baia  
**SPC:** Lynda Leonard; Carlos Cardona; Kourtney Wright; Micheal Atkinson; Leighmarie Lawless; Savailio Smith; Dustin McVay; Jason Keese; Israel Saravia; Reuben Jones; Elizabeth Roberson; Cindy Horta; Robbert Richardson; Jerrod Fox; Jonathan Driver; Priscilla Kangas  
**SGT:** Alexandra Caruso; Aaron Creasman; Eveling Vetter; Mario Ochoa; Jose Villar; Jaeson Keller; Jameka Goodwin; Candice Caudill; Kevin Osgood; James Tebbe; Eli Isaac; Scott Saucier; Scott Reynolds; Cynthia Bass  
**SSG:** Daniel Talbott; Bobby Zed; Selena Bastine; Jessica McGaughey; Jose Santana; Artis Alexander; John Day; Gordon Lynes; Rocio Quiroz; Nathan Wyatt; William Berger; Anthony Shaffer; Troy Cournoyer; Jason Galusha  
**SFC:** Theodore Howard; Bobby Sepulveda; Joseph Barbie

# Chapter 16: *What have you done for history this month?*

by Sgt. Zach Mott

*3rd BCT Public Affairs NCOIC*

I don't know death.

Death has visited the doors of my neighbors and even that of some of my friends. But, his intrusions on my life have been, thankfully, few and far between. My paternal grandmother died when I was barely old enough to know who she was and my maternal grandmother died after a long battle with emphysema. That's it.

I am currently on my second tour in Iraq and have enjoyed relative calm in the 15 months I have spent "at war," so to speak. I've fired 45 total rounds from my assigned weapon while in Iraq. Forty of those rounds were aimed at silhouetted targets at a qualification range and the other five were aimed at the dirt mound surrounding the test fire pit. My only experience with the, by some accounts, omnipresent roadside bombs was more than 200 meters in front of me and too small to damage much more than the dirt it pushed into the sky.

As a journalist, my job is to go where the Soldiers go and cover what they do. Through either a twist of fate, or some other force, those patrols, missions and other tasks I've covered have been harm free. Death, it seems, does not have my address.

But, there are Soldiers here that know death all too well. Some know him well enough that he's become an unwelcomed member of their squad/platoon/company/battalion/brigade/division/life.



I covered a memorial ceremony recently for five Soldiers killed by an improvised explosive device that opened my eyes to a new level of pain and anguish. None of the previous ceremonies I've covered hit me like the emotional sucker punch this one provided.

Five Soldiers killed in one incident is the most my brigade, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, has experienced in two-plus tours in Iraq. But, it was far more than that. These men who died were the good guys – the ones you root for when the times get tough. They were the ones that helped motivate an entire company of men to achieve great things. With the simple, mindless act of one coward, Staff Sgt. Gary Jeffries, Sgt. James Craig, Cpl. Evan

Marshall, Spc. Brandon Meyer and Pfc. Joshua Young were taken from the families they both dearly loved and who dearly loved them.

The remaining members of that Jan. 28 patrol responded not with rage against the well-hidden, heavily-armed enemy; instead they responded with decisive actions that fulfilled the Warrior Ethos of "I will never leave a fallen comrade." They fought back for nearly three hours to ensure their friends' bodies did not end up as a war trophy for the enemy.

To listen to those men, now more than a week removed from the attack, recount tales of their now deceased comrades is enough to bring a tear to even the most battle-hardened veterans' eye.

I can't begin to understand these five men who died. I can only go off the stories that were told and the emotions on the faces of their friends and brothers-in-arms. From that, I can see they were well-loved, well-respected and deeply missed.

I don't want to know death – there's far too much of it floating around in this country. I know that every time I go out the gates is another chance taken and another step closer to that ultimate fate. But I know if I am covering Soldiers like those described above, I will be in skilled hands that are capable of accomplishing whatever mission lies ahead.

I can only hope that if death does knock at my door, I am remembered as fondly as these five heroes were.

The *Striker Bolt* is published in the interest of the Soldiers, Families and friends of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. The *Striker Bolt* is an Army-funded newsletter authorized for members of the U.S. Army under the provision of AR 360-1. Contents of the *Striker Bolt* are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Army

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