



BATTLE SIGHT

Issue 10 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team

July 2009

*Daughters of
Iraq* page 6



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Public Affairs Guidance for dealing with the media in the field:

- 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.

WE WANT YOUR POINT OF VIEW

If you would like to show off your talents in photography, story writing, artwork or even a good poem. Send your stuff to Sgt Wayne Haley at waine.d.haley@us.army.mil

Photos need to be in JPEG format.

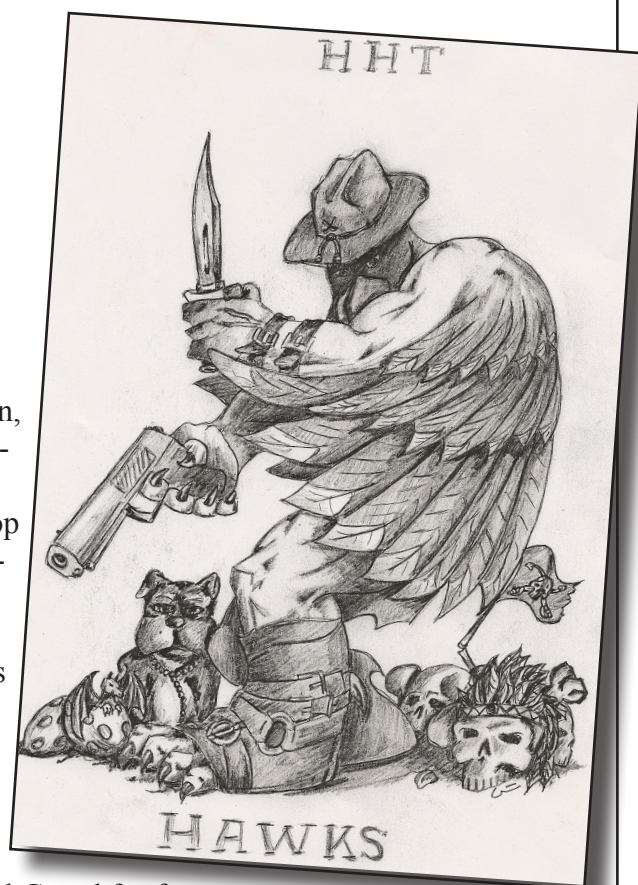
Stories and poems need to be in a word document.

SHOW US WHAT'CHA GOT.



Spc. Matthew Christian, a human resources specialist of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, uses his artistic ability to boost the morale of Soldiers in Iraq. The native of Huntington, W. Va., has been in the West Virginia Army National Guard for four years and is the manager of a car customizing shop. This is his second deployment to Iraq.

Featured Artist of the Month



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
30th HEAVY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM
101 ARMORY ROAD
CLINTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28328

13 JULY 2009



TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE 30TH HBCT

Hello "Old Hickory" Soldiers. The last month has been a very special and historical time in Iraq. The Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA), beginning on 30 June 09, changed how we will conduct certain operations in the months ahead. The BSA was created to transition security responsibilities from US Forces to Iraqi Forces, and also to drawdown our presence in the cities. This is a period of adjustment, and a time for us to adapt to the changes in our operational environment. We should look at this time as an opportunity for our Soldiers to help our Iraqi counterparts as they assume a much greater role in the protection of their country.

We will continue to support our Iraqi friends in the fight against the enemy. We will bring peace and growth to our area of operations by continuing work on projects such as building schools, repairing infrastructure and industry, and developing a strong agriculture for the future.

We will always remember our four Soldiers from the 120th Combined Arms Battalion who lost their lives a few weeks ago. SFC Edward Kramer, SGT Juan Baldeosingh, SGT Roger Adams and SGT Robert Bittiker were outstanding Soldiers and their presence will be dearly missed. They will occupy a spot of honor along with their comrades as Fallen Heroes. It is our resolve in times like these that brings us together and strengthens us as a team. May God bless the families of these Soldiers.

Please know that I am proud of what you are doing every day. Do not forget the great contributions all of our brigade's Soldiers are making here in Iraq, and the great sacrifices our families are making back home. We are participating in an historic endeavor that the people of the United States, the people of Iraq, and indeed, the people of the world, will long remember.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR COMMANDER!

OLD HICKORY!
GREGORY A. LUSK
COL, IN
Commanding
"Always Ready—Stay and Fight"

4th of July

PHOTOS BY SPC. RUTH MCCLARY,
30TH HBCT PAO, MND-B



Spc. Jennifer Mercer of 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team consumes one and a half kilos - about three pounds - of watermelon to win first prize for women in the July Fourth contest.



Staff Sgt. Raymond Patterson of Company E, 252nd Combined Armed Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, consumes around two kilos - about 4 ½ pounds - of watermelon making him the overall winner of the July Fourth contest.

4th of July

4th of July



Spc. Max Justin, a linguist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, is the first Soldier to cross the finish line in the July Fourth 5K race at Forward Operating Base Falcon, with a time of 20 minutes, 23 seconds. Justin, of Glenwood, Minn., is a medical student at Morris University and has been in the National Guard for three years. "Although he has been in many races, it feels good to win on the Fourth of July," he said.



On the 4th, Soldiers enjoy dancing as one of the recreations. They stated it was a nice break from the normal grind of being in a combat zone. Many Soldiers had to balance the festivities and their work schedule so they could attend the events.



Staff Sgt. Deon Bullard, of Clement, N.C., and 1st Sgt. Chris Dawes, of Wake Forest, N.C., proudly displays the shoes that tossed them into first place of the horseshoe tournament at Forward Operating Base Falcon, July 4. Both are of 30th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, and played eight games in two days to win the tournament. Neither has tossed horseshoes in the last five years.

July

Daughters of Iraq

story and Photos by Spc. Ruth McClary
30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

Loud chatter filled the room as ten women from the Daughters of Iraq gathered at an old high school in Yusifiyah, south of Baghdad, June 12, to train new hires, update information in the U.S. forces database and discuss present conditions with officers of 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

The female security program, an unarmed spin-off of the Sons of Iraq, started in October 2008 to work with Iraqi police to search women at checkpoints in an attempt to reduce female suicide bombers and the threat of male bombers who may dress up like women in the area.

"This is one step in the process to help eliminate suicide bombers," said Capt. Walter Hatfield, of Charleston, W. Va., about the Daughters of Iraq. "They do not carry weapons; their weapon is intuition."

Female Soldiers of the 150th ARS served as training aids for the women to practice search techniques; three DoI new hires practiced those techniques with Sgt. Frankie Hibberd, from Charleston, W. Va., of Company D, 230th Brigade Support Battalion.

"Tell them, remember when they came in, I searched them," said Hibberd to the interpreter. "Tell them to practice on me."

Communication during the class

was more visual than vocal as Hibberd used animated facial expressions and hand gestures to break language barriers when the interpreter was busy.

Hadia Hamwed Alwan, a DoI widow whose husband was killed by an insurgent bomb, smiled at Hibberd and said in English, "I love her, I love her!"

After the class, the women discussed their current status with Hatfield and Capt. Jason Bowen, of Shady Springs, W. Va., from B Troop, 150th ARS. Hatfield and Bowen are negotiating with the Iraqi army to extend the DoI's contract from June 30 to December.

"Although the program is well appreciated, these women have been working for three months and want to know when they will be paid," said Entasar Yosif Yakoub, the manager of the 55 DoI workers in that area.

According to Hatfield, the brigade is aware of the pay issues and is working on correcting the problem. He reassured the women, who

are mostly widows with children and are the sole providers for their households that their pay issues will be resolved.

The women's workday is from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., three days a week, 15 days a month and they are paid about \$250 a month. Yet, most of them have not received any pay since they started, said Yakoub.

It's a great concern officials are working on. Another concern is what will happen to the women after their DoI employment.

"Start attending the weekly community meetings now to push women's rights, discuss medical needs and education so the women can get into these fields once DoI comes to an end," said Hatfield.

At the end of the day, the DoI expressed their concerns to listening ears. Just a few years ago these women walked behind their men carrying loads, now as DoI, they stand behind their country seizing weapons and helping their streets become safer.

"I joined the DoI to support my kids and to help all of Iraq become safer," said Hozei Jasim, one of the new trainees.



Sgt. Frankie Hibberd of 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, teaches Daughters of Iraq search techniques as they practice on her. Hozei Jasim, a widow with five children, enjoys searching Hibberd, but was totally shocked when Hibberd pulled out a small knife after she completed the search.

THE VERDICT

“legal news you can use”

In anticipation of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team's return home and demobilization early next year, Soldiers should be aware of their reemployment rights with their civilian employer.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) is a federal law that provides certain reemployment rights and benefit protections for military personnel, including members of the National Guard. USERRA protects employees who serve in the military from employment discrimination and provides reemployment rights after completion of military service.

USERRA protects the servicemember's civilian job while he/she is away from that job for military service. Enforcement of USERRA is primarily handled by the US Department of Labor. The servicemember can also retain a private attorney to enforce his/her USERRA reemployment rights.

Under USERRA, employers are required to reemploy a returning servicemember in his/her former employment position provided that: the employee provides advance notice of his/her service obligation; the employee applies for reemployment in a timely manner; and the individual has satisfactorily completed his/her service and was released under honorable conditions. Discharge or separation from service that is dishonorable, based on bad conduct, less than honorable grounds, or ends in a court martial disqualifies a person from receiving the rights afforded under USERRA.

The time in which a returning servicemember must apply for reemployment or report to work is based on the length of service. An employee serving 181 days or more has 90 days to report to work after completing the tour of duty. The employer has a right to require a certificate evidencing satisfactory completion of military service as a precondition to reemployment if such documentation exists or is readily available (which will typically be the DD Form 214).

Another important USERRA protection is that the employer may not discharge the employee, without cause, for at least one year after reemployment date if service was for more than 180 days.

John B. Gupton
CPT, JA
Operational Law Attorney

M ^{TV} THE REAL WORLD 252 STYLE

**story and photo by
Pfc. Kelly LeCompte**

A two-man team from MTV's Real World program spent a week at Joint Security Station Saydiyah filming the final portions of a follow-up story on one of the show's former participants, Spc. Ryan Conklin of Company B, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

Conklin, a Gettysburg, Pa., native, had starred in the Brooklyn edition of the show and received the official notice for his deployment during filming.

MTV followed him through part of his mobilization and pre-deployment training and is filming the final portion, his deployment to Iraq.

Photography director Jason Williams and producer Matt Ruecker covered Conklin doing everything from patrols in

Baghdad's Saydiyah neighborhood to life at the small base at the end of June and early July.

The Real World program involves moving a handful of people into a house together, and covers their daily interactions.

"The specialty of the Real World is it is an examination of these people and the way they deal with these things in their lives, and this is just an extension of that," said Ruecker.

During the show, Conklin received a call from his brother saying that he's been recalled to active duty. Ruecker and Williams were there when Conklin received the call and have since

followed him to Iraq.

"It's not just a news story, it's deeper than that" said Ruecker. "Being the first people from MTV [in Iraq], I think that hopefully, we're going to provide a story that is not typical that is coming out of this region."

"And not typical to MTV," Williams added.

Conklin said he hopes the coverage from MTV will have a positive effect and maybe help open eyes of the younger American viewers.

"I hope something positive comes out of it," Conklin said. "Even if it's just a slight introduction to just what things look like, or who's over here, or a face to Soldiers. I think that would be pretty good."

"It's been a life experience that neither one of us will ever forget," said Ruecker.

The Army National Guard's 30th

Heavy Brigade Combat Team, made up of about 4,000 Soldiers, operates in a nearly 2,000 square mile area of Iraq. The brigade's operating area includes joint security stations with Iraqi forces in southwestern Baghdad and the mainly agricultural areas southwest of the city.



Gettysburg, Pa., native, Spc. Ryan Conklin, an infantryman for Company B, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, stands between Jason Williams, left, and Matt Ruecker, from MTV's Real World at Joint Security Station Saydiyah, in Baghdad, July 3. Conklin was a housemate on the show when he was recalled to active duty to deploy with the 30th HBCT, and the MTV crew traveled to Conklin's deployment station to film his follow-up story.

MILKING EVERY DINAR

story and photos by Sgt. Mary Phillips

Soldiers with the 120th Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, and a family of Iraqi dairy farmers are spearheading a pilot program designed to increase milk and cheese production in the Mahmudiyah area, south of Baghdad.

This is the first dairy initiative that the North Carolina Army National Guard Soldiers have started with the Iraqis.

Capt. Sara Woods, Civil Af-

fairs Team 31, said the intent is to revitalize the area's dairy industry.

Using micro grants, the pilot farm will be used to build a well and buy cheese-making equipment. The farmers' part of the program begins with them logging their dairy production.

"This will help them generate better milk and dairy products, which is going to improve the entire dairy process throughout the area," said Woods.

While Soldiers searched for a

suitable pilot farm, the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Jack Mellott, of Fayetteville, N.C., actually noticed this farm while on patrol.

"Our mission was to stop and to talk with everyone who

had cows," said Spc. Justin Gay, of Panama City, Fla., who was part of Mellott's patrol. "We hit the nail on the head when we stopped at that farm because they had the most cows, and the best operation going on."

This particular farm is a perfect candidate for the new program, said Woods, because of the large number of milking cows on the farm.

As well as having a large number of cows, the family farm also has a large workforce: 70 family members ranging from infants to elderly.

While the program is kicking off on this one farm, the results will eventually be used to assist farms throughout the area.

"We want to start small and figure out how well the programs work," said Woods, of Janesville, Minn. "We need to figure out how to do the micro grants, and how to work with the farmers to see what they need to increase their dairy, without just telling them what to do."



An Iraqi woman shows off the butter that was made on her family's farm near Mahmudiyah June 23. Soldiers with the 120th Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, and a family of Iraqi dairy farmers are spearheading a pilot program designed to increase milk and cheese production in the Mahmudiyah area.



Command Sgt. Maj. Russell Prince, 120th Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, of Sneads Ferry, N.C., hands out toys to children on a dairy farm south of Baghdad, June 23. Soldiers with the 120th Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, and a family of Iraqi dairy farmers are spearheading a pilot program designed to increase milk and cheese production in the Mahmudiyah area.

COMPANY B, 252 COMBINED ARMS BATTALION

Soldiers of Company B, 252 Combined Arms Battalion, are stationed at Joint Security Station Saydiayh outside of Southern Baghdad. This is what a typical dismounted patrol looks like in their battle space

photos by Sgt. Robert Jordan, 30th HBCT PAO, MND-B







113th F.A. wields Excalibur

story and photo by
Sgt. Robert Jordan,
30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

North Carolina Guardsmen of Battery A, 113th Field Artillery Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Multi-National Division—Baghdad, fired an Excalibur precision artillery round in Iraq at Forward Operating Base Mahmudiyah, May 21.

The Excalibur is a Global Positioning System-guided 155 mm round fired from the battalion's self-propelled M109 Paladin howitzers.

"This will develop the next generation of artillery," said 1st Lt. Frank Dyson, a fire direction officer from Roanoke, Va. He worked with the Excalibur field service representative, Dennis Patnode, for the test.

"I am here for feedback from the Soldiers going through the drill," said Patnode. "And to improve the weapon."

Dyson said the Excalibur gives the brigade a faster, more accurate punch.

"We do not have to coordinate with outside agencies' [for additional] weapons," Dyson said. "We have precision at our fingertips."

Conventional artillery devastates its target but can endanger surrounding areas. Excalibur solves this.

"In unconventional warfare, collateral damage is unacceptable," Dyson said. "Excalibur does not cause problems; it creates solutions. Excalibur can increase the role of artillery."

If, once fired, the round does

not acquire a GPS signal to guide it to its target, or it experiences some sort of failure in flight, it is designed to continue on its initial flight path and impact without arming or exploding.

Patnode travels with the four-man crew, watching each man quickly prepare to fire.

"I evaluate all the time," Patnode said, "I cannot tell the difference between this crew and [one from] the active Army."

Dyson gives the order over the radio for the crews to fire the weapon. The Paladins cannons are rotated into firing position. Soon the rounds are heading toward their targets, miles away.

"It is the highlight of a fire direction officer's career," said Dyson about the new round.



Spc. Grayson T. Dinkins of Sanford, N.C., (left) and Pfc. Bryan Southers of Belmont, N.C., both of Battery A, 113th Field Artillery Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, prepare an Excalibur precision artillery round for test firing at Forward Operating Base Mahmudiyah May 21. The battery is headquartered in Lincolnton, N.C.

When Life Is Not the Same



By Fighting Father Phil
July 2009

Life is not the same when you've lost some one you've served with or fought beside. Near the end of the memorial ceremony held at Mahmadiyah on 5 July, a last roll call was called for Sergeant 1st Class Edward Kramer, Sergeant Roger Adams, Sergeant Juan Baldeosingh, and Sergeant Robert Bittiker. No response was heard, except that in our hearts. In the empty silence that followed we knew that life is not the same when someone you know is killed in action. Of course, we knew it before, only now we could acknowledge it.

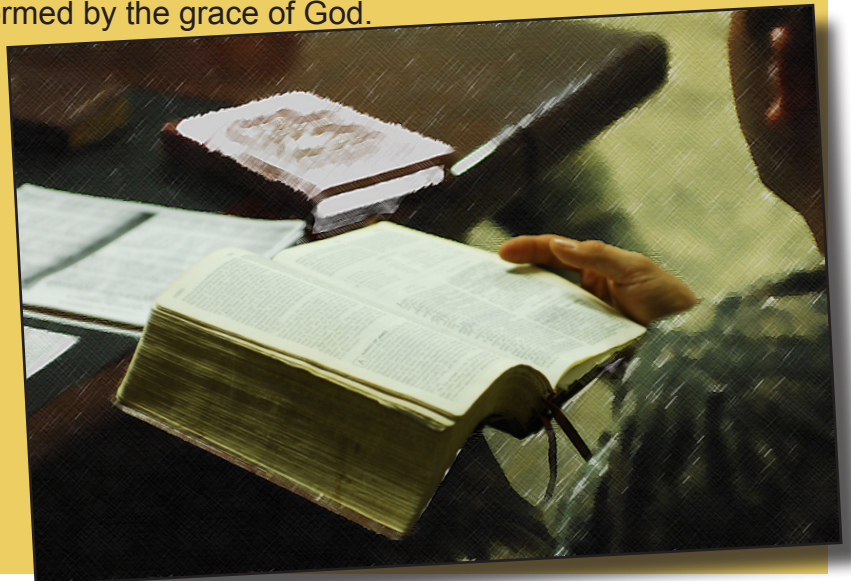
That silence was interrupted by the sharp firing of rifle volleys and then the mournful notes of Taps, only to be followed by a deeper silence. And in that silence something powerful happened and life was again changed.

First the Soldiers of Alpha Company paid their respects. Honored guests, then Soldiers of the 120th Combined Arms Battalion, and Soldiers throughout the brigade, accompanied by a host of others came forward to the memorial display to render honors to our four Fallen Warriors. Prayers, coins, mementos, words too deep to be spoken were all presented at the display like offerings left on an altar—and always a salute was given, first to the fallen, then to Alpha company who lost four fine men.

It's hard to say what occurs when a Soldier renders respect to a Warrior who paid the supreme sacrifice by laying down his life so that others might live in freedom. But I am reminded of the Christian adage that when you bring your life, all that you hold dear, and all that troubles you to the foot of the cross, God gives your life back to you, only changed and transformed.

I give thanks to God for SFC Kramer, SGT Baldeosingh, SGT Adams, and SPC Bittiker whose lives have so changed our own. I pray, also, for their families and friends and all who mourn for them. May we all be changed and transformed by the grace of God.

Phillip Glick
Brigade Chaplain



“New Duty Station”

They left us doing what they love
Leaving us with questions
We'll ask our God above
Questions with answers we will never understand
How and why He chose to take them
Now He holds them in His hand
There'll be no need to fire another round
For as they entered in, they laid their weapons down
A place where Soldiers never die, all pain is erased
A new army, one with sovereign power,
they've been chosen to guard its gates.
You will not find Humvee tracks on its streets of gold,
nor an infantry on patrol
The Master has called for fire to cease
The last shots been fired
They've entered into perfect peace

STAFF SGT. BRIAN K. MONROE
HHC, 30th HBCT
4 JULY 09



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN...

SGT. 1ST CLASS EDWARD KRAMER

SGT. JUAN BALDEOSINGH

SGT. ROGER ADAMS JR.

SGT. ROBERT BITTIKER



FROM THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

A portrait of George Washington, the first President of the United States, is the background for the text. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a white powdered wig, a white cravat, and a dark blue military coat with buff-colored lapels and cuffs. Three stars are visible on his left shoulder. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right.

When we assumed the
Soldier, we did not lay
aside the Citizen.

Every post is
honorable in
which a man can
serve his country.

Discipline is the
soul of an army. It
makes small numbers
formidable.

Happiness and moral duty are inseparably
connected.

Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us
only the choice of brave resistance, or the most
abject submission.

My brave fellows, you have done all I asked you
to do, and more than can be reasonably expected.