

# BATTLE SIGHT

September 2009

Issue 12 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team

Heartstrings  
photo essay

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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 to 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.*

## Poems Donated by Staff Sgt. Brain K. Monroe



### A SOLDIER'S THOUGHTS TO HIS DAD

*On most days I sit behind a desk.  
I'd rather be at home,  
under my shade tree,  
Where I can get some rest.*

*But when it's time to train,  
I will always do my best.  
They taught me everything I need to know dad,  
so put your mind at rest.*

*When duty calls,  
I'm first in line.  
You know I'm on my way.  
Until the end of the battle,  
I'll be there to stay.*

*I'm sorry if I ever leave you behind dad,  
To fight in someone else's war.  
But if I'm taken don't you worry,  
Cause with the eagles I will soar.*

*So when you think of me.  
Don't think about bombs, bullets,  
or how I dodged the rounds.*

*Picture a soldier, standing tall.  
His eyes lowered to the sun,  
As he sounds off loud.  
Remember I did it all for you dad,  
Just to make you proud.*

### Evening Thoughts

*I carry a weapon by my side.  
I keep images of her burned in my heart.  
When I close my eyes she's beside me,  
when they open reality sets in. I realize we are far apart.*

*In a rack I sleep alone.  
Pictures of her surround my walls.  
I hope she knows I'm thinking of her,  
even though I am gone.*

*I hear taps in the dark of night,  
signifying the end of day.  
My mind drifts to holding her,  
watching our children play.*

*As she goes about her day I wonder.  
Does she think of me?  
One day this war will be over,  
our time apart a memory*

B Monroe  
Feb 09

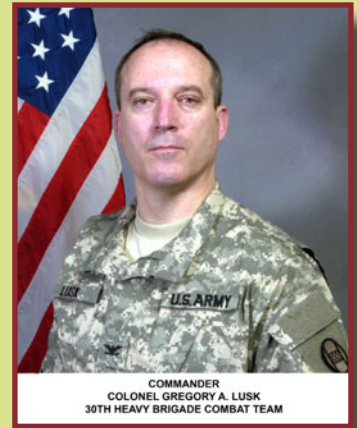
*This Man  
This man stands strong and proud.  
He wears his honor on his sleeve.  
He strives for peace,  
Yet ready to fight for what he believes.  
His heart is full of compassion.  
His blood runs thick with grit.  
His morals are his discipline.  
Heaven keeps his eyes lit.*

*Freedom is his cause.  
Family is his passion.  
God is his destiny.  
Heaven holds his mansion.  
His stature is quiet different.  
His strength beyond compare.  
His face wears the lines of dignity.  
You may be in his presence unaware.  
People call him many things.  
But when all is said and done,  
Soldier, Hero, or a Friend,  
I just call him SON.  
With All My Love, Mama*

*Written by Betty Saldana  
mother of SSG B Monroe*

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

20 August 2009



TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE 30TH HBCT

Hello again Soldiers of “Old Hickory.” With the passing of the Ramadan season and as we enter into the Fall of the year, I want to thank you for your diligence and hard work and congratulate you on surpassing the midway point of our tour.

I am very proud to see the results of our civil capacity building over the last four months as I travel through our operating environment and see improved essential services as well as new and refurbished schools, businesses, farms and medical facilities. We are truly making a positive difference in the quality of life for our Iraqi brothers and sisters.

Now is the time more than ever to remain vigilant and on guard as the enemy continues to prey on the innocent in order to further their selfish agendas. Iraqi Security Forces have stepped up to the challenges presented by the implementation of the Bilateral Security Agreement on 30 June and we will continue to advise, assist and partner with them in order to get these individuals off the streets and into Iraqi courtrooms to be judged by Iraqi law. Our efforts will ensure the people of Iraq have the security and stability that they deserve.

I ask each of you to remain focused and continue to conduct your duties with politeness, professionalism and dedication in order to set the conditions for a responsible and honorable withdrawal from Iraq when our mission is complete.

Again, I thank you for your service. I thank your families for their sacrifice and continued support in our efforts and I look forward to serving with you in the months ahead.

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



# National Guardsmen compete for silver spurs

photo and story by Sgt. Mary Phillips



Cavalry scouts with the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team showed their skills and their mental and physical strength during a spur ride led by the 252nd Combined Arms Battalion at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Sept. 18-19.

All the 30th HBCT scouts earned gold spurs for being in combat during the deployment, but being awarded silver spurs means a scout must first prove themselves in a challenge.

"The silver spurs are like the Expert Infantryman Badge. They are showing today that they are expert cavalymen," said Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Palmer of Clayton, N.C. with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 252nd CAB.

The Soldiers competing went through two days of events testing their physical abilities and their proficiency in tasks expected of a scout. The event started with an Army Physical Fitness Test, and included marksmanship, a 10K ruck march and a written test.

The Soldiers had to appear before a spur board as part of the spur ride, where they had to recite the Soldiers Creed, recite Fidler's Green, a poem to honor past cavalymen, and answer questions about cavalry history and aspects of their duties. The scouts also spent over seven hours marching around FOB Falcon to different stations while wearing all of their combat gear.

Spur rides are not normally conducted in a combat zone and require a large amount of time for planning and conducting the event. For most national guard Sol-

diers however, a deployment is the most time they will spend with their unit which makes this one of the few opportunities an event like this to take place.

"I'm glad we got to do it," said Charlotte, N.C. native, Spc. Joshua Jennings of HHC 252nd CAB, who can now wear silver spurs. "We never really have a chance to do that in the National Guard, and it's nice that we did."

Cavalry no longer ride horses into battle and spurs are what is left of this lineage.

"Going back to the days of riding horses, new Soldiers who came into the unit were called shave tails. They were not allowed to have spurs when they were training their horses because of the extra motivation it gives the horse," said Palmer. They actually shaved the tail of the horses, hence the nick name. After the Soldier proved that they could handle the horse without the spurs and prove they were a good trooper, then they would be awarded their spurs.

The tradition lived on once the cavalry was integrated into armor and became mechanized.

There were 27 participants in the spur ride, and 16 of them were awarded their

silver spurs; 5 from the 252nd CAB and 11 from the 120th CAB. Everyone involved was proud of what they had accomplished at the end of the two days.

"Being a scout is about all the things we did when we went through the spur ride," said Shallotte, N.C. native, Spc. Eric Williamson of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 120th Combined Arms Battalion, another Soldier who can now wear silver spurs. "The whole point of silver spurs is to show that you know what you're doing. You've taken the time to study and you've taken the time to train yourself.

I think that shows that you stand out above everyone else, knowing what you do and being proficient at your job. It shows how proud everyone is of what they do. Even some of the guys who didn't get their [silver] spurs stuck with it till the end and they tried as hard as they could.

That just shows the dedication that everybody had."

The 120th CAB is currently hoping to hold a spur ride in November for scouts in the 30th HBCT that did not have a chance to participate this time.



The spur board, made up of Staff Sgt. Eric Hammonds, (left), Staff Sgt. Mark Kingsley, (center), and Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Palmer, (right), wait for the next Soldier hoping to be awarded their silver spurs to report to the board during the spur ride at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Sept. 19. Cavalry scouts reporting to the board were asked a series of questions including



## a Rite of Passage

story and photo by Spc Ruth McClary

Forty-three newly promoted non-commissioned officers of the 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team were inducted into the NCO Corps during a ceremony luncheon at Camp Stryker, south of Baghdad, Sept. 18.

The NCO Corps, known as the backbone of the Army, embodies those who instill discipline and order within a unit. The ceremony dates back to the 18th century with the Army of Fredrick the Great and commemorates the passing of a Soldier from the junior enlisted ranks to the corps noncommissioned officers.

"The NCO ceremony is hosted by NCOs for NCOs, said Squadron Command Sgt. Maj. James Allen, of Paden City, W.Va. "It recognizes new inductees, letting them know there is more to it than just pinning on rank; more responsibility should encompass something more."

The guest speaker, Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. John Swart, of Fuquay-Varina, N.C., gave new inductees leadership guidance before they passed through the archway symbolizing a rite of passage and an acceptance of more responsibility as Army leaders.

"Becoming an NCO is a tough job, but it's a rewarding job; be tough but remain compassionate," said Swart.

New inductees recited the NCO creed; a guiding document for noncommissioned officers with the major paragraphs beginning with the letters N, C, and O. Inductees then passed through the crossed sabers arch as the official party presented them with the NCO Guide and Creed.

"I'm very surprised at all the attention it received," said Christian referring to the archway. "It's the first time the arch is being used and now it's part of our legacy."

Allen, the first official greeter to welcome

inductees into the elite corps, handed out the guides as Swart followed with congratulations.

First sergeants of the squadron's four troops and one company spoke a few words of wisdom to the Soldiers under their command as they handed them a copy of the NCO Creed.

Sergeants James and Michael Lowry, brothers serving in Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, who were promoted July 20, were amongst the first to walk under the archway that is a permanent fixture in future squadron NCO ceremonies.

"It's a good tradition," said James Lowry, of Elkview, W.Va. "The ceremony opened my eyes to the NCO heritage."

"I enjoyed being part of the ceremony for the NCO's that will be our future leaders," said Sgt. 1st Class Mike Street, of Indian Trail, N.C. "It's our job to mold new NCO's into those leaders."

Sgt. Deforest Talbert, who died in combat July 2004 during the squadron's last deployment, was remembered during the ceremony.

"We also serve to honor the memory of those men and women of the NCO Corps who have served with pride and distinction," said Street during the ceremony. "Today, we remember one of our own whose courage should not go unremembered."



Squadron Command Sgt. Maj. James Allen, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, and 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team Command Sgt. Maj. John Swart congratulates Sgt. James Lowry, personal Security Detail for his promotion into the ranks of the NCOs.

# Heartstrings

photos by Sgt Waine D. Haley







. Sgt. Gary Knerr "iglw;," a pararegal with 150th ARS, reexamines a .50 calldgt 'lkn'g'y kj 'i tcf gt. 'Uehi'U v0Ectqu'Ej gtt { . qh'OP E. "during pararegal Soldier competition at Camp Victory, south of Baghdad, Oct. 16.



# December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

# Providing Over Watch

story and photo by Spc. Kelly LeCompte

Unmanned aerial systems operations are keeping Soldiers in the Baghdad area safe thanks to cooperation between four different brigades that have centered operations, here, north of Baghdad.

"The launch and recovery site for all of [Multi-National Division] Baghdad is at Camp Taji," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Darryl Della Rossa, the UAS officer with the 86th Military Intelligence Company B. "By consolidating, they can support four brigades in one place."

The four U.S. brigades have pooled their UAVs at Camp Taji's airfield, along with the maintenance personnel who launch and recover the vehicles; while the vehicle operators are located wherever their respective units work from.

"The units share the birds, hanger space, personnel; it can all be shared at one place," said Della Rossa, from Pueblo, Colo. "It's great because it keeps you flying all the time. It ensures all the brigades can have more coverage."

"We service the birds, and we launch them," said Sgt. Conrad Jahn, a maintenance shift lead with B Co. "We launch them and then we'll hand them off to a control site that's forward, so that the actual mission flying is done from the forward sites."

"I think it works really well," said Jahn. "We have a really good team here and we're able to support each other... and we pool a lot more experience this way. Our standard of maintenance is a lot higher and our production is a lot better because we have such a large pool of materials and talent and experience. It's a really good team. We're like a big family here."

Della Rossa, who works from Forward Operating Base Falcon, where Company B's operators are, said he agreed the system works. The MI company has been serving in Iraq since April and has logged 2,500 flight hours so far; all accident free.

"That's more than some companies fly in a whole year deployment," Della Rossa said.

The Soldiers in B Co., whether serving at Camp Taji or FOB Falcon, work 12 hour days, seven days a week. Della Rossa said without the system at Camp Taji, there would be days at the time when operations would have to stop for maintenance on the vehicles or for crew rest, and it would be unlikely to fly so many hours have they have so far, especially without incident.

"It's a great system," Della Rossa said. "Since a bird is always in the air, we can be always ready."



Sgt. David Gomez, of Brooklyn, N.Y., prepares an unmanned aerial system for launch at Camp Taji, north of Baghdad, Oct. 5. Gomez is with the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

## Ravens Support

story by Spc. Ruth McClary

It's not a bird – it's not really a plane – it's a military unmanned aerial vehicle sporting a bird's name.

The radio-controlled "Raven" covers joint missions for U.S. and Iraqi forces in the 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron's area of operations southwest of Baghdad.

The Raven, a five-pound radio controlled plane, is made of Styrofoam with a tough Kevlar covering, similar to that in a Soldier's helmet, and is equipped with two cameras to record and photograph aerial view prints of sites for joint U.S. and Iraqi missions.

"We support the Iraqi army in cache searches and in suspicious areas where they don't have a full view from the ground," said Spc. Benjamin England, of Bluefield W. Va., a Raven operator.

England and Spc. Johnny Provins, of Fairmont, W. Va., are the squadron's two Raven operators, which operates under the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

"When we received the Ravens, I volunteered to go with the first group in training," said England. "I am the only trained operator in Headquarters Troop but each of the other troops has two assigned operators."

England spends his days working in the tactical operations center as a systems operator, yet he is always willing to fly the Raven whenever the opportunity arises. Provins is the Troop C commander's driver, but he has flown the plane for a couple of joint missions in the squadron's area of operations.

"We flew over the Yusifiyah marketplace to show the Iraqi army how the plane works," said Provins. "They got aerial photos of the area and we got in some flight hours."

The small plane can be assembled in about five minutes and is made to disassemble itself upon impact during landing.

"There is cushion on the bottom and the trick is to try to land it on that cushion," said England. "I never really get tired of watching it land; it's like a cartoon watching it fly apart."

The cost of the entire Raven system is about \$250,000, with the aircraft alone running about \$37,000 of that. Still, it's a small price to pay if its imagery helps save the life of even one Soldier.

## UNC Alumnus Serves in Iraq

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan

O c l 0 T q d g t v ' Kemp III, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Class of '93, is serving in Iraq with the 'P q t y ' E c t q r k p c ' National Guard's 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

Kemp is the judge advocate general with the nearly 4,000 member brigade and has been a Guardsman since spring 2001. "I wanted to give back as a citizen, [then] six months later, 9-11 [happened] and my whole world changed," he said.

Born in Henderson, N.C. in 1971 and raised in Oxford, N.C., Kemp enrolled at UNC in 1989 and graduated law school at Wake Forest University in 1996. "Even as a little boy in 3rd grade I wanted to go to Chapel Hill," said Kemp.

He supervises the brigade legal office at Forward Operating Base Falcon, south of Baghdad. Kemp leads staff, reviews legal documents such as Soldiers' wills and power of attorneys, and represents the command in legal proceedings.

"Running an office you have to delegate, identify [Soldiers'] talents and match them to the job," said Kemp.

The realities of Iraq must be taken in to account, "you are in a combat zone, take a deep breath and do not get too anxious," said Kemp. "Schedules are made but not [always] kept."

Lessons he learned as an UNC undergrad aid him in his military career. "In school I learned time management, how to use time wisely," he explained. "You have to set priorities to succeed in college and the military."

Many of the staff officers he works with are recent graduates of other North Carolina colleges and universities, which is a source of friendly rivalry. "It's healthy but in the end there can only be one," said Kemp, "Chapel Hill."

UNC also holds a special attraction for his family. "I enjoy watching UNC football games with my son and wife," he said, "and while I am gone my brother will be taking them to the games."

He is on leave as the public defender for Pitt County for this, his second deployment. "Being a state employee lets me serve; I can train and deploy without worrying about my job," said Kemp.



## Father and Son Colorado National Guard Soldiers

story by Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan

A son might be expected to follow in father's footsteps, but, for at least one family, those footsteps led to Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Brian Prunty and his son, Spc. Josiah Prunty, are both members of the 86th Military Intelligence Company of the Colorado Army National Guard, and deployed to Iraq with the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina National Guard in May 2009.

Both speak with pride about the others' desire to join the National Guard and eventual deployment to Iraq.

"He was out of the military for 18 years and he rejoined in October 2006," said the younger Prunty about his father. "He stepped up."

The elder Prunty served in the Army from 1983 to 1989 and now serves as a linguist at Forward Operating Base Falcon.

By enlisting in January 2007, the younger Prunty impressed his father.

"I am so proud. You raise them to be adults and his joining showed he could make good decisions," said the elder Prunty.

The younger Prunty serves as an unmanned aerial system operator at Camp Taji, north of Baghdad.

Service together -- although apart -- has strengthened their bond.

"I have to admit it was hard when he went to basic; heart pulling," said Brian.

While in Denver on Guard related training, Brian traveled to see his son depart for basic training.

"I tried to see him when he took the bus to basic, and I missed him by 10 minutes; that is a page in a parent's life," he said.

The son returned and began to train in the same unit, impressing his father.

"I will sound like a baby, it touches my heart," said Brian. "He works with great guys and does well with them."

The longest Spc. Prunty had spent from home was basic training and his UAS school. While he followed his dad into the Guard, he didn't follow the same career path.

"I wanted to do something a little different. He was in linguistics and I wanted to do UAV (unmanned aerial vehicles)," said the younger Prunty.

UAVs are remote-controlled aircraft that patrol the battlefield providing up-to-date information for leaders on the ground.

While their work relationship is professional, the bonds of family do manage to break through.

"At high altitude training on Pikes Peak in Colorado everyone was saying 'goodnight,' jokingly, so I said, 'Good night, Sgt. Dad' and he replied, 'Good night, Private Son,'" said Josiah before he was promoted.

Training and deployment have kept them separated most of the time but recently they met at Taji.

"My dad, in June, came to our UAV site at Taji and saw me on the job," said the younger Prunty. "It was good to hang out with my Dad. It was my best moment in Iraq."

"Having not seen him during the deployment, it brought tears to my eyes," said the elder Prunty. "I thank God for the opportunity."





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photos by Sgt. Mary Phillips

## Soldiers and Iraqi Police. Wrestle for Success G

Utory and photos by Sgt. Mary Phillips

Thirteen Iraqi federal police officers of 3rd

Battalion, 1st Mechanized Brigade, began a three-day combatives course with

Soldiers of 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Iraq, Aug. 15.

Combatives is a U.S. Army fighting system stressing at the basic level grappling, grabbing and controlling an opponent with chokes and holds.

"It is the quickest way to be an efficient fighter and you can train almost full contact," said Staff Sgt. Terry Thompson of Jacksonville, N.C., a combatives instructor with Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

The police officers lined up in front of a 20-by-10 foot mat on the floor, as U.S. Soldiers demonstrated fundamental holds, called mounts, across the chest, neck and hips.

"Any questions?" asked Thompson after showing the officers a new mount. "Let's practice."

Iraqi police Cpl. Hamsed Jasim wrapped his arms around the left shoulder of Officer Muhammad Hussein while extending his own right leg, pinning Hussein, who was about 50 pounds heavier than Jasim, to the mat.

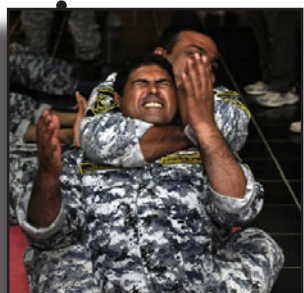
"I held him until he got tired," said Jasim.

The instructors adjust the students' holds, moving arms and legs as needed.

"[Combatives] is a good self-defense tool to keep them safe," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Zike, an instructor from Rock Hill, S.C., with Company E, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, headquartered in Wadesboro, N.C.

Smiling, the students slam into the mat as they continued to practice their

new skills. "You can see it in their eyes, they are happy," said Lt. Col. Amer Jubr al-Hassany of Baghdad, commander 3rd Brigade.



## 30th HBCCT Soldiers Tape-on Secret Identities

story and photo by Spc. Ruth McClary

National Guard units traditionally are close-knit organizations, with Soldiers having served together for many years at a time. Since deploying to Iraq in early 2009, the bonds between 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team Soldiers have grown even stronger.

The familiarity has not only bred esprit-de-corps, but in some cases esprit-de-nicknames.

"They call me 'Pale Rider', said Capt. Mike Allen, chaplain, of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 150 Armored Reconnaissance Squadron. "It's the title of a movie starring Clint Eastwood, who was a preacher that carried a gun and cleaned house when people messed with him.

"Bravo Troop gave me the nametape because I was a preacher coming to war," he said.

Allen, of Parkersburg, W.Va., does

not carry a weapon and was also given the turns his nametape upside down. The let-squadron's Bravo Troop patch showing a crossed sabers and a skull, tagging him as an "official Troop B outlaw."

Bravo Troop gave the same patch to the West Virginia National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Allan Tackett during his visit to Iraq in June. Tackett also helped give credibility to the nickname of Capt. Chris Piasecki, pronounced Puh-sets-ski, the squadron's fire support officer.

"During the staff call meeting they started calling me 'Capt. P-Sexy' because all of them had a problem pronouncing my name," said Piasecki of St. Clairsville, Ohio. "Even Maj. Gen. Tackett called me 'P-Sexy' when he visited, so I guess that makes it official."

Two of the three officers who work with Piasecki have unofficial nametapes showing their nicknames. Although the

nametapes can fit securely on uniforms, none of the Soldiers wear them. The secret identities have been placed on personal bags or in other locations.

Civil-military officer, Capt. Walter Hatfield, of Charleston, W. Va., is the patriotic "Captain America." He received the name during pre-deployment from Soldiers because he was always upbeat and motivated during the training.

Civil affairs officer, Capt. Tim O'Neil, of San Diego, has two nicknames: he's known as Captain "Chaos" and "Crunch Berry." The nicknames make perfect sense to those who know him: O'Neil was the platoon leader in a unit nicknamed "Com-

pany Chaos" and he loves to eat Cap'n Crunch Berries cereal.

Civil affairs non-commissioned officer Sgt. Christopher Nishio, of San Diego has come up with a unique way to formulate his secret identity: he



he turns his nametape upside down. The let-squadron's Bravo Troop patch showing a crossed sabers and a skull, tagging him as he's on missions.

Sgt. John Theriault, of Durham, N.C., and Staff Sgt. Stanley Nieves, of Winston-Salem, N.C., both of the deputy brigade commander's personal security detail, have difficult-to-pronounce names.

Theriault, a French name pronounced Terry-o, became "Sgt. Cheerios" after so many pronunciation screw-ups. Additionally, on one mission he was jokingly called 'Honey Nut' and that nickname stuck, too.

Nieves, pronounced Ny-eh-ves, has two nicknames: "Latino Heat" and "Chico." Which one is used depends on his mood, he said.

Much like the Velcro-backed name tapes themselves, these nicknames will most likely stick long past the end of the brigade's deployment.

# Enlighten Me

## *Fighting Father Phil I Could Use a Change*

I could use a change of pace right about now. The trouble is that everything is pretty much the same; the food at the mess hall, the mission, the people. One day looks the same as the one before and I've run out of new movies to see. I'd make a joke about Ground Hog Day, if it wasn't so dangerous.

The trouble is the threat level hasn't changed. In the early days of this campaign we all had novelty to keep us on our toes. In its absence we'll have to find better ways to stay alert. Complacency kills.

Here are a few things that help. Keep each other sharp. Whether it's at the clearing barrel or in the MRAP, look out for your buddy. Enjoy healthy diversion. Whether it's a volleyball game, Karaoke, or learning something new, getting your mind off the daily grind helps you stay fresh. Stay connected to family and friends. It's just part of staying healthy. Dig deep. Say your prayers. Write in your journal. Read and reflect on the Scriptures. It will help you see things in a new and fresh way.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." Lamentations 3: 22.

Fight the good fight.

Chaplain (LTC) Phillip Glick  
Brigade Chaplain



## THE VERDICT

### Civil Capacity Mission

Wills, Powers of Attorney, AR 15-6s, and Criminal Matters. These thoughts pop into everyone's minds when thinking about Judge Advocate Generals (JAGs) on the battlefield. However, during our current tour in Iraq, another mission is required of JAG: Rule of Law Advisors. Currently, our Rule of Law Advisor is Maj Michael J. McCann.

As part of the civil capacity mission, we are to assist and help local judicial officials and their respective Iraqi security counterparts in developing and teaching Iraqi Rule of Law. For the last few months, Judge Advocates have been visiting the judges as well as teaching local Iraqi Security Forces the warrant process and human rights law.

In July, Cpt. Gupton taught local Iraqi legal procedures to sMG Ali's staff (Iraqi Army) at JSS Deason. On 23 June 2009, 30th HBCT held an Iraqi Legal Roundtable. Officials from Mahmudiyah and Baya'a Courthouses, Iraqi CID and local Iraqi police all openly participated in the fruitful discussions. Issues discussed ranged from the handling of Article 4 terrorism warrants to the process of detaining individuals. Each individual brought a unique point of view, which allowed all of us to leave the meeting with a greater understanding of the difficulties faced in this function of government.

Interestingly, Iraqi's expressed difficulties were very similar to the ones JAGs experience with our own judiciary back at home. The major difference is the type of law itself, as Iraqi law is based on the Egyptian and French Code, while American jurisprudence is based on English law. After the roundtable, officials were treated to a tour of the Joint Expeditionary Forensics Facility, where we learned the innovating and developing evidentiary techniques used by U.S. Forces in Iraq to prosecute terrorism cases.

As long as the Rule of Law maintains its significance, JAGs will continue to develop relationships with the local judicial officials, improve their court facilities, and assist them in developing terrorism cases to keep dangerous people off the street.

Maj. Bert Kemp  
Brigade Judge Advocate

