

YANK

THE SPARTAN  BI-WEEKLY

FREE

DEC. 25
2009

VOL. 1, NO. 1

*By the Soldiers... for the
Soldiers in the service*



THEN AND NOW...

Command Corner



TO ALL OUR SPARTAN SOLDIERS: This time of year has special meaning to our Dogface Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division. In 1917 at Christmas time the first elements of the newly formed 3rd Division were on their way to France to save it from German aggression. Our

Soldiers had not yet tasted combat but were ready and eager to help on the side of humanity and right. The Division was made up of various smaller units from throughout the regular Army and state militias. They all came together under one banner for one unifying purpose, to liberate the people of France from the enemies of freedom and peace. Those doughboys of the 3rd Division represented all the goodness that America had and were a symbol of American commitment to democracy and freedom.

Fast forward to today, 92 years later, our Soldiers have come together in the Spartan Brigade Combat Team, the 2nd Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division, to do the same thing our forebearers did. We are Warriors from four different divisions, the 3rd Infantry, the 1st Infantry, the 1st Armored, and the 82nd Airborne; from the active Army, the National Guard, the Reserves, from the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps; from every state and territory, from 19 different countries, all united

under one banner, in one place, for one reason: to bring to Iraq the peace and freedom the Iraqis so greatly deserve.

We are willing to sacrifice for each other and those we don't know in order to realize the dream of America, of peace, and of life. There is great honor and joy in this season and in the sacrifices we make for others. This honor and sacrifice has been displayed by Soldiers like Spc. Rodriguez, of the Battle Kings, who after being wounded only cared about getting back to his unit so other Soldiers would not have to pull his weight. Like Spc. Hicks of Gary Owen who being wounded continued on with his mission applying his own tourniquet while driving his buddies to safety, and whose major question every time he was asked by his chain of command was when he could get back to his outfit and continue the fight.

We Spartan Soldiers must never forget that everyone of us represents not only our units, we represent America and all the good things that our people and way of life have to offer. We represent a belief in peace, respect, honor, and human dignity. We are America. We are righteous. And this is why our enemies fear us.

To all of my fellow Spartans and their Families wherever you may be, my wife Melody and I wish you a happy, safe, and blessed holiday. The holiday season is a special time for Spartans. SEND ME!

~Spartan 6

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On the cover:

The Spartan Newsletter pays homage to *YANK Army weekly*. *YANK*, the Army Weekly was a weekly magazine published by the United States military during World War II. The magazine was written by enlisted Soldiers only and was made available to the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen overseas. *YANK* was the most widely read magazine in the history of the U.S. military, achieving a worldwide circulation of more than 2.6 million.



Sgt. Jon Weaver, HHC, 2nd HBCT, strikes a pose, paying tribute to the previous Dog Face Soldier who appeared on the cover of the Dec. 1944 issue of *YANK*, Army weekly.

Black Knights discover large weapons cache



Story by

1st Lt. Steven Morelli, 1-64 Armor

On 5 December, the men of Delta Company 1-64 AR put a large dent in the supplies of the local insurgent groups when they discovered a large weapons cache. The discovery was a great step forward in cooperation between American forces and our Iraqi Army counterparts.

The cache consisted of numerous artillery and mortar rounds and was one of the largest caches found in the Rogue area of operations.

The men of Red platoon and their Iraqi Army counterparts found the cache after receiving a tip from the local Iraqi leader. After making the initial discovery, the Dogface Soldiers of Red Platoon spent many grueling hours digging and uncovering a multitude of enemy munitions. The work was hard, but worthwhile.

“We spent a lot of hard hours working to uncover the cache but it was worth it knowing those weapons won’t be used against American forces or our Iraqi brothers in arms,” said 2nd Lt. Kyle Stilwell, 1-64th Armor, 2nd HBCT.

The discovery of the cache will surely hurt the in-

surgers in the area as it has removed a large supply of explosives commonly used in improvised explosive devices. The seamless integration of combat Soldiers, combat enablers like explosive ordnance disposal

units, and the Iraqi Army was an excellent example of how a combined arms operation works.

“An operation of this magnitude and scope helps build confidence and faith in our Iraqi counterparts and it helps them see the assets we can bring to the fight, as we help them take the reins on the security situation in their country,” said Sgt. 1st Class William Staun, 1-64th Armor, 2nd HBCT.

This discovery is the first of many successful joint operations between the men of Delta Company and our Iraqi Security Forces brethren.



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers from Company D, 1-64th Armor pose beside a small portion of the weapons cache discovered by the Desert Rogues.



Photo Illustration Pfc. Gregory Gieske

After touring the checkpoints in the western part of Mosul, Spartan Commander, Col. Charles E.A. Sexton, 2nd HBCT, 3ID (third from the right), and members of his command group discuss some of the issues the local nationals are facing and how the 3rd Infantry Division can support Staff Brig. Gen. Mohammed Sabri and the Iraqi Police over tea, Dec. 4.

Iraqi Soldiers learn new mortar techniques



Story By
2nd Lt. Andrew Nesom, 3-7 Cavalry

In an effort to foster future partnership and enhance their working relationship, Bone Crusher Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, and the 12-2 Stability Transition Team, along with 12th Brigade Light Artillery Battalion conducted a combined U.S. mortar demonstration, Dec. 3.

Lieutenant Colonel Khalid and his Soldiers from the Light Artillery Battalion, 12th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army conducted a mortar crew demonstration at Combat Outpost Fortitude for U.S. Army personnel including Lt. Col. Matthew Stanton, the STT Commander.

"This exercise showed the vast progress the Iraqi Army has made since the unit's formation and validated their status as

professional mortar men," said Lt. Col. Stanton.

The demonstration allowed the Iraqi Soldiers and the STT to visually

see the capabilities of a U.S. mortar section and allowed Lt. Col. Kahlid and his staff gain valuable insight into useful tactics for the modern battlefield.

The training began in the morning with the Bone Crusher mortar section establishing and occupying a hasty mortar firing point. This is accomplished by quickly setting up the mortar(s) aligned to a fixed aiming point.

Next, the troopers demonstrated proper aiming techniques and discussed the capabilities of the

120mm mortars the U.S. currently employs. Later the unit went through the steps of firing from a degraded mode, which is aiming and firing mortars without the aid of sophisticated computer system.

Also demonstrated was the Mortar Fire Control System, a computer that eliminates the need for the complex charts and graphs used during degraded mode.

The exercise concluded with a real-time, highly-synchronized, mortar firing demonstration by the Cavalry Troopers.



Photo By Pfc. Nathan Hover

Soldiers from 3-7 Cavalry demonstrate the aiming process needed for mortar fire during a joint mortar demonstrate, Dec. 3.

After the demonstration, the Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. William Lindner, and Lt. Col. Kahlid had a long discussion with their Soldiers and staff. During the discussion Lt. Col. Kahlid expressed his deepest thanks, and looked forward to developing a long range planning calendar with the STT to continue training with U.S. forces and improving his Soldiers' overall capabilities.

The Iraqi Soldiers were presented with unit coins as a token of appreciation and respect.

Lieutenant Colonel Kahlid responded by saying "We will repay your kindness by continuing your traditions, and maintaining a peaceful Iraq the U.S. Army worked so hard to give us."



Photo By Pfc. Nathan Hover

Soldiers from 3-7 Cavalry demonstrate the mortar firing process during a joint demonstration with members of the 12-2 Iraqi Army, Dec. 3

Spartan 1-36 Soldiers making a difference



Story by
Pfc. Jason B. Aglietti, 1-36 IN

The beginning of December marked a significant time for the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 36th "Spartan" Infantry Regiment as they began their support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Though the Spartan Colors have flown over the deserts of Iraq twice before, this was the first time that the unit has seen combat operations since relocating from Germany to their new post in Fort Bliss, Texas.

The Spartans displayed motivation during the beginning of their deployment. The morale of the Soldiers in the battalion is unquestionably high, many having been with the unit since its creation during the summer of 2008.

"[It has] instilled a sense of ownership and pride in each Soldier to go from having nothing, to America's top fighting force; from trained in light tactics, motorized tactical vehicles (Mine Resistant Armor Protected vehicle) and mechanized (Bradley's)," said Bulldog Company's Headquarters Platoon Sergeant, Staff Sgt. Christopher Mazzaresse, originally from Mt. Airy, N. C.

"It's beneficial for the Soldiers to see how a unit gets built up from nothing, no buildings, no systems, no equipment—to being an effective fighting force in less than 18 months."

The unit, originally attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division from Fort Bliss, Texas, has seen major changes during their deployment. The most dominant change has moved them from the 1st Armored Division to the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, which is stationed outside the city of Mosul—one of Iraq's most operationally challenging cities.

"We are all ready!" said Spc. Anthony Benes,

Company D, 1-36 In., from Gretna, Neb., who has been with the unit since its creation. "We look outside the city walls and want to do something good. I feel great that we have this challenge. We will adapt and overcome everything that comes our way. Our Families sometimes don't like it, but it's our job."

The main focus of this deployment is to support Iraqi leaders while helping to avert hostile actions that threaten Iraq's national security. As the Spartan Battalion begins its mission in Iraq, every Soldier is eager to pick up their role in assisting their local Iraqi Security Forces counterparts.

"We are going to find out what the [Iraqi Soldiers] already know, and then adapt to figure out what else we can do to support them," said Spc. Benes.



Photo by Pfc. Jason B. Aglietti

Left: Sgt. Noah Gum and Sgt. First Class Antonio Gallegos, 1-36 Inf. provide security outside an Iraqi Army Command Post outside the city of Mosul on Dec. 17.

During the initial setup, each company in the battalion reviewed and upgraded every aspect of their equipment and vehicles. The newest technology was installed in all the vehicles to include, updating all electronic warfare components, and placing exterior obstacles that would protect Soldiers inside vehicles

while deterring insurgents from attacking.

Like every Army unit that has ever deployed, homesickness is still on the minds of every Soldier. Easily accessible internet and phones make the distance easier, but the Spartans are overcoming the challenge together.

"[This] challenge is mental, and that's what we are here for," said Pfc. Randy Alexander, a Soldier from Beaver, Pa. and assigned to Havoc Company. Alexander had to say goodbye to his five-month old son to deploy. "But when you drop the dime and say it's time, that's when the blood is boiling and we are ready to go. We're motivated."



Story by
1st Lt. Todd Gibson, 2-3 BTB

Soaring a few thousand feet in the air, the ‘Shadow’ Unmanned-Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) of Alpha Company, 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion, serve as the brigade’s ever-vigil watchmen.

The UAVs survey known hot-spots of IED emplacement and indirect-fire points of origin, as well as any other objective or route the 2nd Brigade Combat Team deem essential to keep a close eye on.

The Shadows certainly live up to both their name as well as the call-sign of Alpha Company, Predator. The enemy knows they’re out there, they know they can’t hide from them, and they know that in this cat and mouse game, they will always be the prey. The Shadows hunt not with weaponry or payload, but through the gathering of intelligence and the relay of that information to the forces they watch over.

Their presence alone is often an effective enough deterrent to the enemy.

“Shadows aren’t the quietest vehicles out there, but if the insurgents happen to hear them over-

“Shadows aren’t the quietest vehicles out there, but if the insurgents happen to hear them overhead, you can see them drop what they’re doing and scatter,”

- Capt. Michael Thomas

head, you can see them drop what they’re doing and scatter,” said the Alpha Company Commander, Capt. Michael Thomas, as he further explained

that denying the enemy’s willingness or ability to attack can be just as effective against the insurgent-networks as engaging them in combat.

Thirteen days since tak-

ing over full spectrum operations in Mosul, Iraq, the platoon’s Unmanned-Aerial Vehicle Operations Technician, Chief Warrant Officer Pedro Flores, commented on the continuous surveillance the UAV Soldiers were providing.

“We set the bar higher than any

previous unit at the National Training Center with 203 hours flown in fourteen days. Currently we’ve run 39 missions with a total of 178 hours flight time; by the end of tomorrow we’ll have surpassed that two-week record from NTC,” said Chief Warrant Officer Flores.

The landing seems almost surreal as the unmanned-aircraft gracefully touches down onto the tarmac. The crews respond immediately once it stops. Within 20 minutes the landed-bird is pushed off the runway, preflight checks are made on the next UAV, and finally it is loaded onto a launcher and slung hundreds of feet into the air.

Their constant vigilance in the sky is a testament that this war is fought not just through force of arms, but also by protective and sometimes unseen guardianship over our Soldiers.



Courtesy Photo

Sergeant John Wilkinson of the ‘Titan’ 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion’s Tactical Unmanned-Aerial Vehicle Platoon pushes a UAV off the runway after a smooth landing.



Story by
2nd Lt. Tiffany Acker, 1-9 FA

Finding Footholds in FOB Marez

This past month has been a busy and stressful one for 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment as it prepared to inherit a battle space that *TIME Magazine* has dubbed “Al-Qaeda’s Last Iraqi Stronghold.”

In the city of Mosul, bordered by Forward Operating Base Marez and Logistical Support Area Diamondback, Arab and Kurdish tensions as well as ever-lingering threats of Improvised Explosive Devices continue to feed apprehension. Leaders Lt. Col. Thomas Williams and Command Sgt. Maj. Hai Dang, however, have spent months preparing the Soldiers for deployment and the unit is equipped to be successful during this twelve month rotation.

Amid the flurry of meetings, link-ups, and familiarizations, Lt. Col. Williams’ concern is that the Soldiers at the lowest level do not become complacent or sacrifice the smallest safety considerations for the sake of making themselves comfortable. “The Soldiers have been focusing on warrior skills and tasks and on partnering with Iraqi Security Forces at all levels from Private to Lieutenant Colonel,” explains “Battleking” Commander Lt. Col. Williams as he talks about how it is important that all Soldiers remain mission-focused during this critical time. As the first step in the occupation

of an area, the unit has recently conducted a Relief in Place with its counterpart, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment from Ft Hood, Texas. Although the RIP is a process that lasts only a couple of weeks, the first few months in country will continue to be busy as Soldiers become familiar with their area of operation. Conducting these RIPs are important because it allows the oncoming unit to absorb from the departing unit all the information they have gained over the last year without the danger of having to re-learn lessons from mistakes made by previous units.

Following the 10-day RIP process, a Transfer of Authority Ceremony was performed on Nov. 26 outside the outgoing unit’s Tactical Operations Center, a building out of which all battalion operations are based. The ceremony was complete with a backdrop of howitzers and Mine Resistant Anti-Personnel vehicles as well as an array of speeches from high-ranking officials.

While leaders are working to make a smooth transition, Soldiers

were practicing their basic Soldiering skills. Early Friday morning, Soldiers from Alpha Battery were found repeating procedures on how to clear a weapon. Each soldier in line had to display perfect clearing procedures before they were authorized to take a break. Soldiers were tested on performing functions check on their weapons as well as being familiar with the series of steps to be taken in the case of a vehicle rollover. Although some of these skills were taught in Basic Training, it is important to develop muscle memory for this indispensable task.

“The Sol-

diers from 1-9 FA have been training and preparing for the mission for over twelve months and went through a dense training cycle in Kuwait. All the Soldiers have been trained to standard,” said Lt. Col. Williams.

The most challenging part of the deployment is leaving wives, Family, and friends behind at Fort Stewart, some for the fourth time in six years, and before the holiday period. But morale is good. They are confident in their abilities and are ready to conduct RIP/TOA and accomplish the mission.



Courtesy Photo

Commander Lt. Col. Thomas Williams and Command Sgt. Maj. Hai Dang uncasing the colors during the TOA Ceremony as a representation of 1-9 FA’s assumption of the battle space.

Training Event Equals Partnership



Story by
1st Lt. Anne Gildhouse, 26th BSB

Combat medics from the 26th Brigade Support Battalion traveled to Al Kindi, north of Mosul, to teach Iraqi Soldiers from the 2nd Iraqi Army Division combat lifesaving training.

The medical training was a three day course conducted from Dec. 14-16 that consisted of formal classroom instruction followed by realistic combat simulated hands-on training.

Iraqi Army Soldiers received training in the areas of patient assessment, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), hemorrhage control, splinting techniques, and casualty transport and evacuation. Medical personnel from the 26th BSB incorporated their medical knowledge and combat experience into the event that enabled the Iraqi Soldiers to learn practical skills to assist them in saving lives of their fellow comrades.

Most importantly, the training provided the Iraqi Army with competent first responders needed to support operations within 2nd IA Division area of responsibility.

“The medical training not only teaches Soldiers how to save lives but it also gives us an opportunity to strengthen partnership with Iraqi counterparts,” said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Stanberry, 26th BSB.

Soldiers from both the Iraqi Army and U.S. Army agree that the training events are useful and everyone walks away with something constructive to gain, Sgt. 1st Class Stanberry said.

The three-day training was followed by a graduation ceremony with twenty-one certificates presented to Iraqi Soldiers of the 2nd IA Division by the 26th Brigade Support Battalion’s Commander, Lt. Col. James E. Kazmierczak. The certificates were symbolic of the successful training they received and the partnership between the Iraqi Army Soldiers and US Army Soldiers.

The 26th BSB will continue to train and their Iraqi counterparts during the deployment to Mosul.

BRIGADE SAFETY OFFICE

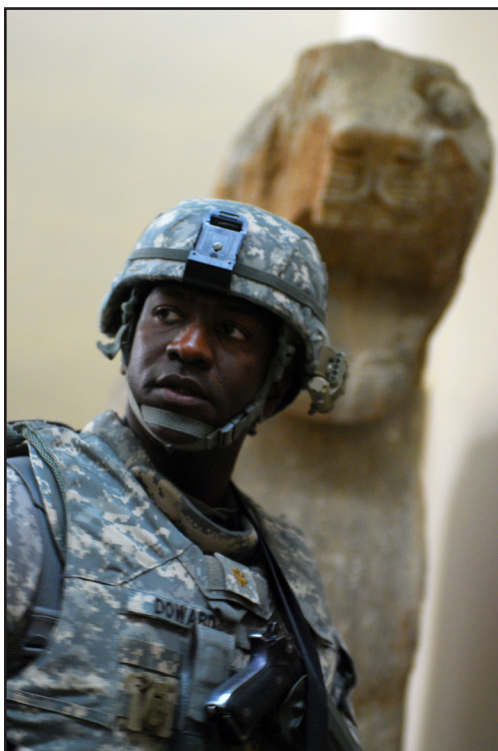
WET WEATHER DRIVING

RAIN - WET DUST - MUD

- Drivers should be cautioned to slow down and adjust their speed based on road conditions.
- Always wear your seatbelt and gunners restraint.
- Train your crews on unique handling characteristic of assigned vehicles.
- Stopping distances will increase with wet roads, so increase following distances.
- Inspect vehicle tires for worn tread and replace if necessary.
- Inspect windshield wipers for worn or missing wiper blades.
- Keep your windshield clean at all times.
- Rehearse rollover drills before all vehicle operations.
- If you must drive through deep puddles, gently pump your brakes to dry them.

Specialist Kevin Faison, 1-9, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, provides security to members of the Provincial Reconstruction Team during a visit to Mosul in northern Iraq, Dec. 6.

Photo by
Spec. Dustin Gautney



Making his way through Mosul, Iraq's Museum of Ancient History during a Personal Security Detachment Mission for the Ninewa Provincial Reconstruction Team, Maj. Oscar Doward, 1-9 FA, 2nd HBCT, 3ID, takes a moment to observe a 3,000 year old relief carving, Dec.6.

Photo by
Pfc. Gregory Gieske



Posting security, Staff Sgt. Cody Hoefer, HHC, 2nd HBCT, 3ID, stands watch for signs of danger before boarding a Blackhawk at Joint Security Station India, Nov 26.

Photo by
Pfc. Gregory Gieske

After dismounting a Blackhawk at a small Joint Security Station just north of Mosul, Iraq, Command Sgt. Maj. Valmond Martin, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, and Sgt. Clark Richards, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, make a routine stop to check on the vast improvements to the base by 3ID Soldiers, Nov 26.

Photo by
Pfc. Gregory Gieske



Spartan Soldiers and Iraqi Security Forces link for humanitarian aid drop

Story By
Pfc. Crystal M. O'Neal
2nd HBCT Public Affairs

A group of kids huddled together, giving each other small pushes and shoves, as they tried to get to the front of the crowd. Their hands stretched upward, their eyes were wide and glistening with excitement, and their smiles were covering their entire faces. One child catches a soccer ball passed into the crowd; he is overjoyed.

2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers teamed with Iraqi Security Forces to deliver soccer balls to children in Mosul, Iraq during a humanitarian aid drop, Dec. 11.

Sergeant Major Valmond A. Martin, 2nd HBCT, 3ID command sergeant major, said visiting Mosul to hand out balls for the children was a top priority on the Spartans' agenda.

"We were definitely excited to come out today. It's always good to see smiling, happy children. Our Iraqi counterparts, the ISF, did a great job helping with security and making the event run smoothly," said the sergeant major. "In Iraq, soccer is one of the most popular sports so this is really big; a young kid with a soccer ball is the future."

To support the humanitarian aid drop, Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID drove light medium tactical vehicles

loaded with boxes of soccer balls to the drop site.

1st Lieutenant Daniel Dubov, 3-7 Cavalry, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, said that the Soldiers were glad to help with the event.

"Doing these humanitarian aid drops show the people of Iraq that Soldiers do really care and that we are making an honest effort to help them in every way that we are able to. The children loved us; they swarmed around us, smiling and happy, ready to get one of the soccer balls," said 1st Lt. Dubov.

The first lieutenant also added the Iraqi Security Force's professionalism and dedication also made the event a success.

"The Iraqi Army and the Iraqi police were just great. They were extremely professional. They also showed that they were well-trained, providing security and stepping in to take charge whenever needed. These guys have definitely come a long way, and their progress shows that they will only continue to get better," said 1st Lt. Dubov.

Spartan Commander, Col. Charles E. A. Sexton, was also able to tour the city of Mosul with the city's mayor, Zuhayr Muhsin. The head sheik of tribe Ao-Arajiy, Muhson Hushim Ao-Arajiy, also helped Spartan Soldiers hand out the soccer balls to the children.



Beyond the standard:

Spartan Soldiers get rare training from Special Forces

Story by
Pfc. Crystal M. O'Neal
2nd HBCT Public Affairs

Photos By
Spc. Dustin Gautney
2nd HBCT Public Affairs

Soldiers receive training on firing weapons once they join the Army. As early as basic training, numerous trips to the ranges ensure that American warriors are comfortable with their weapons, preparing them fully for combat.

After leaving basic training and advanced individual training and reporting to their first duty station, Soldiers are still required to maintain their marksmanship skills.

Some Spartan Soldiers took their skills to the next level Dec. 12, 2009 when they received training from Special Forces Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Marez in northern Iraq.

The Soldiers fired the M-4, the M-16, and the AK-47 and also received several unique training techniques to help elevate their Soldier skills.

Sergeant Jeremy Towal, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, said the rare opportunity was extremely beneficial and certainly worthwhile.

"Today we got a chance to learn techniques we don't learn in regular Army training. The Special Forces Soldiers were kind enough to teach us different types of firing positions, supported and unsupported, as well as give us some experience with foreign firing systems, the AK-47," said Sgt. Towal.

According to Spc. Jhassel Delossantos, the training was helpful and exciting.

"Even though I am an expert marksman, it never hurts to brush up on your skills. I learned a bunch of great techniques out here. I think they will help me maintain my skill with the weapon and also help me out in any situations I may find myself in during this deployment," said Spc. Delossantos. "Even though it was training, I had a lot of fun; it was cool."

Staff Sergeant Oliver Vogt, Operational Detachment Alpha, Special Forces Group, said that taking time to teach Soldiers skills that makes them better is something that he does every chance he gets.

"I try to bring guys back here at least once a week, depending on our training schedule. Some of the younger Soldiers who come back here have not fired their weapon since basic training or AIT so being back here, getting familiar with the weapons and learning new ways to move or position themselves and their weapon is always good for them," said the Special Forces staff sergeant.

Staff Sergeant Vogt said that instructing the Soldiers comes easy to him and make him feel like he is helping with the mission.

"I actually like working with these guys. I was a teacher before I joined the Army, so instructing these guys are simple plus I feel like anything that better prepares these Soldiers is essentially helping them in the fight. Anything helps to get the mission accomplished is definitely a good thing," said Staff Sgt. Vogt.



Specialist Justin Duff, HHC, 2nd HBCT, 3ID looks over various weapons made available for the Spartan Soldiers to learn and train on from Special Forces Soldiers.



Above: Private First Class Crystal O'Neal, HHC, 2HBCT, takes aim using techniques learned from Special Forces training, Dec. 12.



Left: Private First Class Devin Pearson, HHC, 2nd HBCT, takes the opportunity to fire an AK-47 assault rifle during the SF training held at FOB Marez, Dec. 12.

Chaplain's Corner

The SPEM prayer is special to me. I often use it during pastoral prayer time at chapel services, at home or down range. I pray that God will meet your Spiritual, Physical, Emotional, and Mental needs.

-- Chap. (Maj.) Sid Taylor

A friend sent me an e-mail that concluded with a list of prayer requests. She said, "Spiritually, I am confused, so pray for understanding. Physically, I am tired, so pray for rest. Emotionally, I am very weak, so pray for strength. Mentally, I am worried, so pray for peace."

When I saw her later, I told her, "I've been SPEM praying for you." She looked confused, so I told her I was praying for her spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental well-being.

Scripture illustrates God's care in each of these areas.

Spiritual: Jesus prayed for His disciples: "Sanctify them by Your truth" (John 17:17). Truth leads to spiritual understanding, eliminating confusion.

Physical: Peter had a physical need – release from jail. His friends prayed – and he got out (Acts 12:1-11). In God's care we find security and rest (Ps. 16:9)

Emotional: Often the psalmists asked God for relief from distress (4:1; 18:6; 107:6-7). He brings hope.

Mental: Insight and wisdom are promised for those who cry out to God (Prov. 2:3-6; James 1:5-7). Through prayer and reading His Word, the peace of God can be found.

Are you struggling? Ask God for spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental assistance. – Dave Branon

Marez and Diamondback Christmas Schedule

Catholic Christmas Day Services

- Mass, Libery Chapel at 1030
- Mass, Veteran's Chapel at 1200
- Mass, Liberty Chapel at 2100

Christmas Carolers will visit AOs

SPARTANS On the FOB

How do you plan on celebrating the holidays?



"I'll spend the holidays working out in the gym and of course playing football."

Pfc. Luke Mathias, HHB, 1-9 FA

"I'll be spending the holidays with my military family."

Sgt. First Class Mark DeJesus, HHC, 2nd HBCT



"I'll be serving meals in the DFAC and exchanging gifts with my Soldiers for our Secret Santa on Christmas Day."

Sgt. Maj. Lasonjia Stewart, HHC, 26th BSB

"I'll be at home with my wife and kids via the internet to watch them open their gifts."

Spc. Tyson Pinter, HHC, 2-3 BTB



"I'm spending the holidays having fun with my Soldiers at a Christmas party."

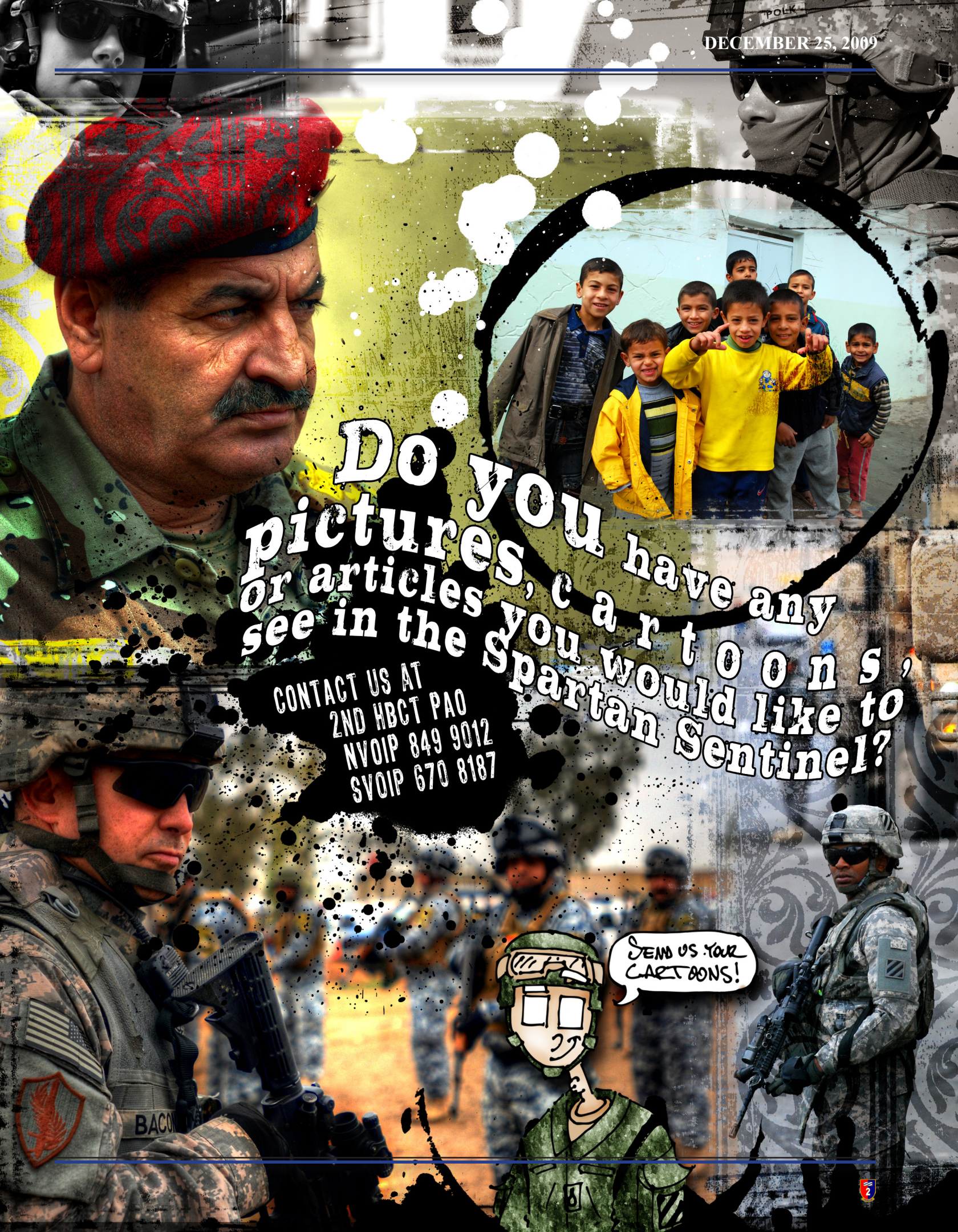
Capt. Brook Davenport, Brigade Nurse

**Do you
pictures, or articles
see in the you
have any
spartan would like to
Sentinel?**

CONTACT US AT
2ND HBCT PAO
NVOIP 849 9012
SVOIP 670 8187



SEND US YOUR
CARTOONS!



IRAQI FORCES

US SOLDIERS

"Rock of the Marne!"

-Fort Stewart, Georgia



A THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION MISSION

TASKFORCE

JUSTICE IS COMING!

STARRING: MAJOR GENERAL TONY CUCOLO, COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR JESSE ANDREWS

CONTRIBUTING CAST INCLUDES: SOLDIERS FROM THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION, 1ST ARMORED DIVISION, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, UNITED STATES NAVY, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAMS, IRAQI ARMY, IRAQI POLICE, PESHMERGA, IRAQI BORDER ENFORCEMENT, IRAQI FEDERAL POLICE,

DCI DIGITAL DANGER
CLOSE COMBAT

310

AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

PRODUCED BY PFC. GREGORY GIESKE

