



# -PATCH

## 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION NEWS

VOL. 3, ISSUE 5

BASRAH, IRAQ

FEBRUARY 7, 2011

## Senior Defense Official Visits With Troops

Story by Sgt. David A. Bryant  
36th Infantry Division

**B**ASRAH, Iraq – The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Michele Flournoy, sat down for an informal lunch with troops from U.S. Division-South Feb. 1 to answer questions and give Soldiers a view of the impact they have on the security of the nation.

Flournoy’s visit was part of a larger tour of Southern Iraq focused on the drawdown of equipment and personnel prior to the transfer from a military-oriented mission to a diplomatic one.

“You all are at a critical juncture here in Iraq,” Flournoy said. “What you do over the next six months will determine if it is a smooth hand-off or a fumble”

to the Department of State.

The under secretary did her best to answer a variety of questions from the Soldiers, a mixture of active duty, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers representing the units stationed at Contingency Operating Base Basra under the command of Maj. Gen. Eddy M. Spurgin, 36th Infantry Division commanding general, USD-South.

“It was pretty neat to see how humble she is,” said Spc. Vanessa L. Lopez, a human resources specialist with the 36th ID. “She didn’t try to use big words or speak over our heads; she tried to make sure we understood the answers to our questions and didn’t try to add any fluff if she didn’t know the answer.”

Lopez said it was great to hear the under secretary ask the Soldier’s directly how the deployment affected them and their families back home. The 22-year-old New Orleans native and resident of Austin, Texas, added that Flournoy helped give her a better overall picture of how she and her fellow Soldiers affect the military mission during Operation New Dawn.



*BASRAH, Iraq – Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Michele Flournoy and Maj. Gen. Eddy M. Spurgin, commanding general of the 36th Infantry Division and commander, U.S. Division-South, answer questions from USD-South Soldiers during a luncheon Feb. 1. Flournoy visited with the troops as part of a tour of Southern Iraq focused on the drawdown of equipment and personnel prior to the transfer from a military-oriented mission to a diplomatic one. The agreement between the U.S. and the Government of Iraq is for the Iraqi Security Forces to take full control of all operations from U.S. military forces by Dec. 31, 2011. (Photo by Sgt. David A. Bryant, 36th Infantry Division)*

(Cont'd on Pg. 2)

(From Pg. 1)

Other Soldiers attending the luncheon agreed with Lopez' assessment of the under secretary.

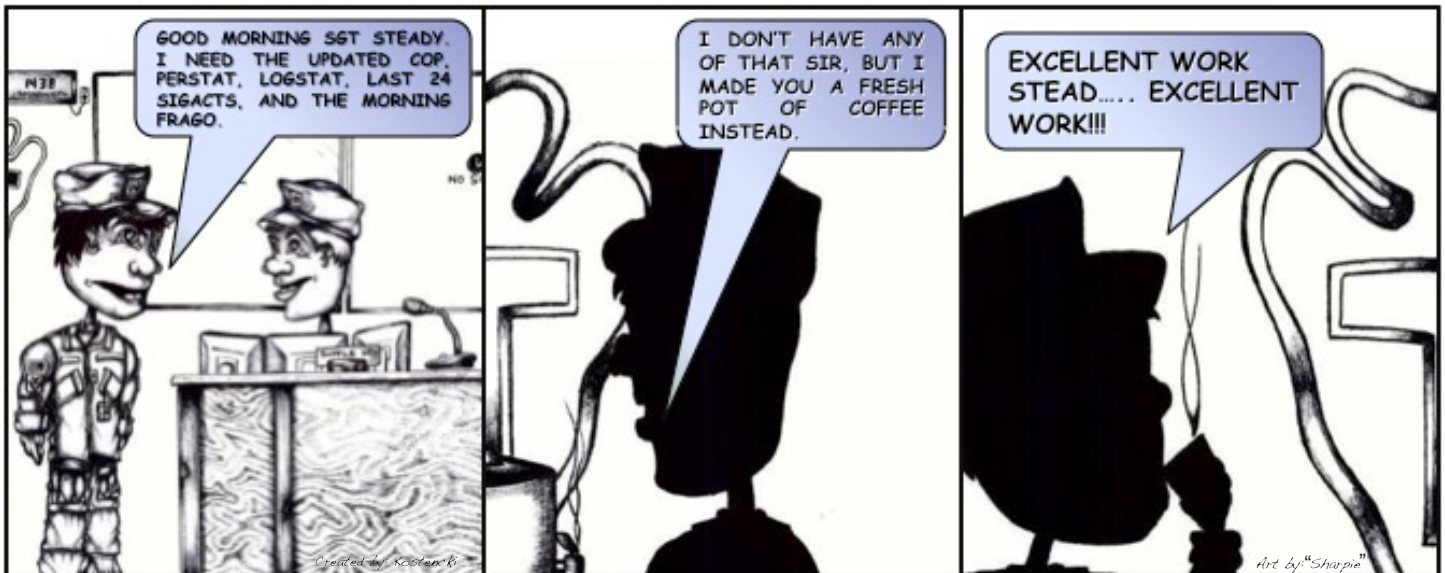
"It was nice having a member of our government come down and talk with us," said Sgt. Zachary B. Mueller of Tampa, Fla., a communications platoon sergeant with 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. "I was appreciative of her talking to the lower enlisted ranks, because it gives us the feeling that what we say matters."

"I really appreciate that you're here; appreciate your sacrifice and the sacrifices of your families," Flournoy said to the troops. "This is a critical mission, and what you do is absolutely vital to the security of our nation." 🇺🇸



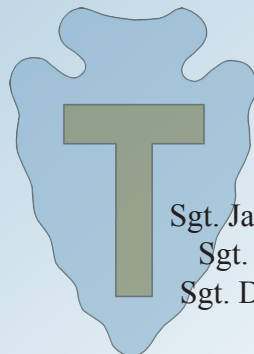
From left: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jorge E. Rodriguez, information assurance officer, 36th Infantry Division; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Pablo V. Escalante, deputy secretary general staff, 36th ID; and Sgt. Zachary B. Mueller, communications platoon sergeant, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th ID, have lunch with Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Michele Flournoy Feb. 1. (Photo by Sgt. David A. Bryant, 36th Infantry Division)

## Battle CPT X-traodinaire



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# Deployed Unit Awards Soldiers for Courage, Excellence

Story by Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston  
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

**B**ABIL, Iraq – Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, stood before their peers to be recognized during a mass awards ceremony held at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu Jan. 24.

Col. Reginald E. Allen, regimental commander, presented the Combat Action Badge and the Army Achievement Medal to the Soldiers receiving the awards.

“These ceremonies are conducted every month,” said Maj. Scott T. Allen, 1st Squadron’s Executive Officer, originally from Colville, Wash.

“It’s a chance for Troopers to come forward and be presented their award in front of fellow Soldiers.”

The Combat Action Badge was awarded to Troopers who were involved in recent improvised explosive device attacks throughout the regiment’s operational environment.

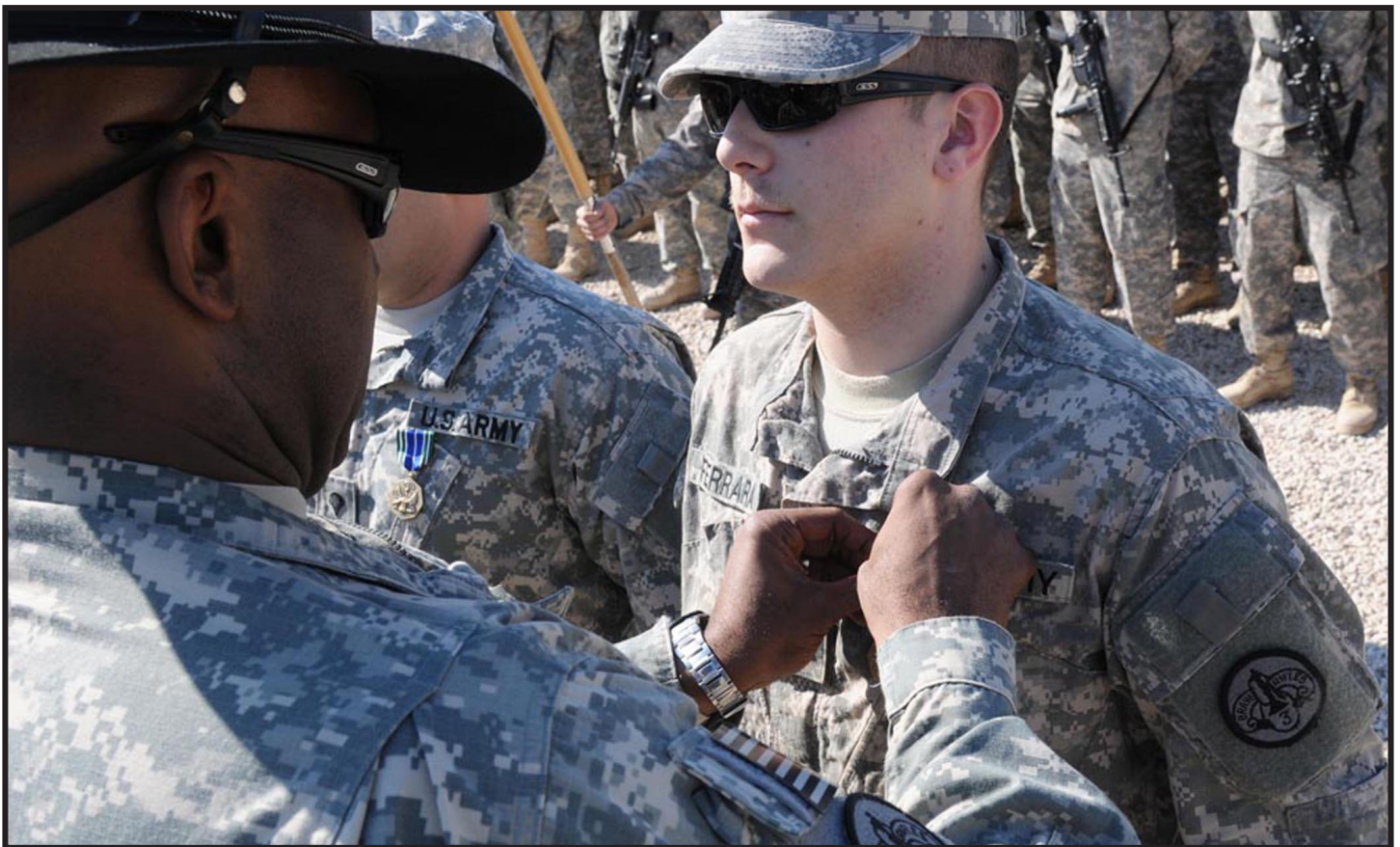
A number of Soldiers in the formation received the Army Achievement Medal for their professionalism and excellence in the performance of their duties.

“It’s important for good Soldiers to be recognized,” said Spc. Patrick W. Dougherty,

armorers for Troop D, and a Rio Grande, N.J. native. “We put in a lot of hours and hard work and this shows Soldiers their efforts don’t go unnoticed.”

Dougherty was awarded the AAM for successfully maintaining high standards in the performance of his additional duty of being responsible for the arms room, as well as his duties as an ammunition handler.

Aside from recognizing the achievements of high performing Soldiers in the unit, an additional benefit to holding the ceremonies is that it helps to motivate other Soldiers to do their absolute best, said Allen. 🇺🇸



*BABIL, Iraq – Col. Reginald E. Allen, commander, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, pins an Army Achievement Medal to the chest of a Soldier during an awards ceremony on Contingency Operating Site Kalsu Jan. 24. The Regiment’s “Tiger” squadron held the ceremony, which honored those awarded for their excellence. Combat Action Badges were awarded to 24 Soldiers who were engaged by insurgents in recent IED attacks. (US Army photo by Pfc. Adam Hefner)*

# 36th Infantry Division Judge Advocate General Your Legal Assistance Team

Hours of operation & office location:  
Monday-Saturday, 0800-1700  
\*Closed Mondays 1030-1300  
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COB Basrah, Iraq

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**Capt. Barbara Kerrane**



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Contact Spc. Genevie Plaza to schedule an appointment!  
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## *"Dude, where's my photo?!?!"*

Looking for that really cool photo or video you just *know* Public Affairs took of you? Here's how you can find it!

Want your family and friends to see just how awesome you look in full gear? They can find you on the internet!

On NIPR computers; click on the "Start" button, and then on "run." Type in: \\10.65.20.61 and click "okay."

Double-click on pao\_photos; click on the folder of the year, then on the folder of the month, the photo was taken. Each event that month will have its own folder with two sub-folders in it. One sub-folder will contain the package we submit, and the other will have all the raw photos. Video packages are coming soon to the same place, so keep checking!

Sometimes it takes a few days to get all the photos and video completed, so be patient. Our broadcast and print journalists load everything onto the shared drive once it is approved!



[www.facebook.com/pages/36th-Infantry-Division](http://www.facebook.com/pages/36th-Infantry-Division)



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[pao36id.smugmug.com](http://pao36id.smugmug.com)

# Just For Fun!

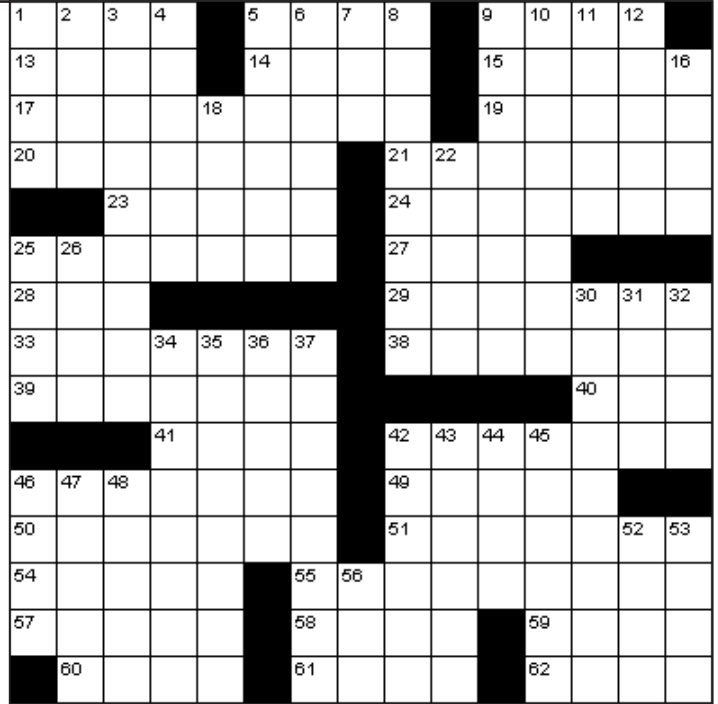
**Across**

- 1 Spam, ham, lamb, ...
- 5 High peaks
- 9 Train for boxing
- 13 Lenin's land
- 14 A case of pins and needles
- 15 Jewish scriptures
- 17 Really soaked
- 19 Destroy by degrees
- 20 Conjecture
- 21 The Sage of Concord
- 23 Horse opera
- 24 Homo \_
- 25 Fourteen-line poems
- 27 Cargo compartment
- 28 Native Nigerian
- 29 Pizza herb
- 33 Merge
- 38 Got smart
- 39 Entered, as data
- 40 Computer screen
- 41 China's \_\_\_ Xiaoping
- 42 Taxi drivers
- 46 Get ready to fly
- 49 Alternate identity
- 50 Opera singer Horne
- 51 Seedless raisin
- 54 Boadicea's people
- 55 Tear to pieces
- 57 Frenzies

- 58 Ireland, poetically
- 59 An arm and \_\_\_
- 60 Custom
- 61 Tabula \_\_\_
- 62 Infamous emperor

**Down**

- 1 Disarray
- 2 Biblical twin
- 3 Stargazing
- 4 Author Capote
- 5 China shop purchase
- 6 Aquatic mammals
- 7 Regret
- 8 Subordinate event
- 9 Belfry spots
- 10 Goldilocks meal
- 11 Got up
- 12 Hazardous gas
- 16 Egg producers
- 18 Ceremony
- 22 NZ native
- 25 Ailing
- 26 Double-reed instrument
- 30 Prudent
- 31 Classic art subject
- 32 Composer's work
- 34 Sheets and pillowcases
- 35 Utopian



- 36 Silly goose
  - 37 Beget
  - 42 Blackcurrant liqueur
  - 43 Bryn Mawr grad
  - 44 Liver secretion
  - 45 Caped crusader
  - 46 Arab ruler
  - 47 Type of parrot
  - 48 Please, in Pisa
  - 52 Never used by poets
  - 53 Jason's vessel
  - 56 Gershwin brother
- \* Answers next week!

y l l e k w o j h t i m s  
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 a n n i a m h i l t o n k

- Anderson
- Barnes
- Beaty
- Blake
- Bronson
- Brown
- Carney
- Dorsey
- Fleetwood
- Gardiner
- Harris
- Hawkins
- Hilton
- Holland
- James
- Kelly
- Lawson
- Mifflin
- Pease
- Pinn
- Ratcliff
- Smith
- Veale

**Got an Idea?**

**Tell us!**

Let us know if you have any good ideas on what you would like to see in the T-Patch.

Send an e-mail to: [36IDPAO@gmail.com](mailto:36IDPAO@gmail.com) today!



# Headquarters Snapshots: Who We Are.



**Capt. Samantha Garcia** – The secretary to the general staff, U.S. Division-South, is a San Antonio native who was a cadet for two years at the University of the Incarnate Word and Saint Mary’s University, San Antonio. She went through the accelerated program and was commissioned in May 2003 as a medical service corps officer.

She received her bachelors in nutrition and intends to attain her masters in the same field.

Prior to this deployment, Garcia was aide-de-camp to the Texas Army National Guard assistant adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Joyce L. Stevens. She has been working diligently on her physical fitness and aims to max out her Army Physical Fitness Test.

Two previous deployments include a year in Kosovo and a humanitarian mission in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

She said her experiences as an officer have enriched her personal growth and her current deployment only adds to it.

Garcia enjoys spending time with her battle buddies by attending special events and activities.

**Sgt. John Grissom** – The noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the operational law section with the Staff Judge Advocate comes from Kerrville, Texas.

He transitioned straight onto active-duty orders after graduating from Texas State University-San Marcos with a major in public administration and a minor in political science.

Grissom wants to attend law school at Saint Mary’s University in San Antonio this fall, using the money he saves from this deployment.

“I might take ROTC,” Grissom said. “I would like to be a JAG officer.”

On his second deployment, Grissom said he is enjoying the experience of working in a different section.

Grissom said on his previous deployment in 2006 to Kosovo, he was primarily involved with UCMJ issues working for the prosecution section.



**Spc. Michael Almendarez** – This San Antonio native is a security manager with Headquarters Support Company.

Before transitioning into the Army National Guard, Almendarez served for four years as a diesel mechanic in the Marine Corps.

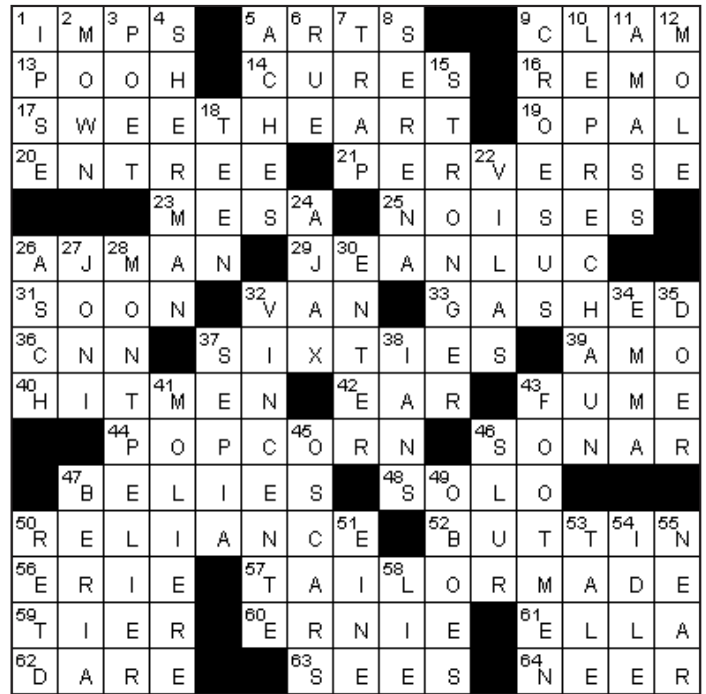
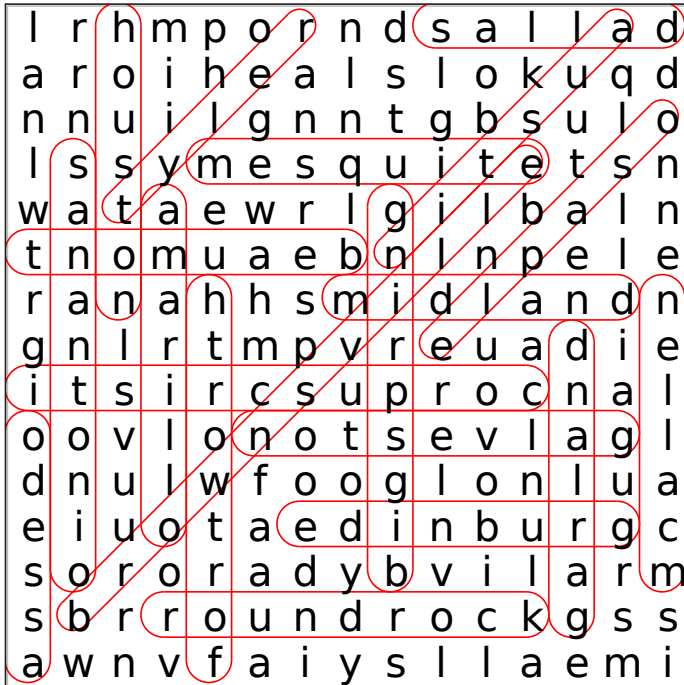
Standing 5 feet 6 inches, he benches 315 pounds of solid iron, with hopes to push 400 pounds by the end of the deployment.

The 27-year-old said aside working on his physical fitness, he has enrolled in Army correspondence courses and set his sights on making rank.

“My goal is to work my way up and become a sergeant major one day,” said Almendarez.

“After this (deployment), I hope to jump on (with) another unit and go to Afghanistan the following year; to do two deployments back to back.”

# Last Week's Puzzles: The Answers



## 36th Infantry Division Equal Opportunity Advisors Cell



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Joe Lawton

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Capt.  
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the PAO Asset Request button!  
Just follow the directions and submit your request, Monday through Friday, during normal business hours. We'll get back to you within 24 hours!

# Photo of the Week!



This is a photo of the 36th Division Special Troops Battalion motorpool taken through the lens of an AN/PVS-14 night vision scope on the evening of Jan. 19, 2011. Thanks to Staff Sgt. David R. Henley Jr., from the Electronic Warfare Office, for the submission. Keep sending in your photos! We enjoy the opportunity to see what you can do!

Think your photos are good enough to be Public Affairs material? Send them in! Every week, we'll choose the best of your photos to publish in the T-Patch newsletter. Just e-mail us your photo in a high-quality format, along with your full name and rank and a description of what your photo is about and when it was taken. Include full name, rank and job title of each person in your photo. We look forward to seeing what you can do. And remember - keep it clean!

**Send your photos to:  
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