



T-PATCH

36TH INFANTRY DIVISION NEWS

VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

BASRAH, IRAQ

JANUARY 7, 2011

Letter from the Editor

“In Spite of Hell!”

First off, I’d like to introduce you to our first edition of the “T-Patch” newsletter, a weekly publication of command information coming to you every Friday. The T-Patch has a history stretching back to World War II, where it humbly began as a news sheet during the Carolina Maneuvers of 1942.

After the battles of Salerno, San Pietro, Rapido and Cassido, the T-Patch became a full five-column, tabloid newspaper when the “Fighting 36th” bivouacked at Maddaloni. The difficult battles the division faced through the course of WWII made regular publication difficult, but the T-Patch continued entertaining and informing our Soldiers until the division returned home for deactivation in November 1945.

Due to an overwhelming positive response, we will continue to put out the daily Basrah Bulletin. Keep sending your updates, and we’ll make sure the latest information is disseminated. Want to know what’s for chow today, or if

anyone is selling something you need in the classifieds? Do you have something to sell? Check the Basrah Bulletin!

Have a question for Basrah Betty? Send an e-mail or call Sgt. James Kennedy Benjamin, the point of contact for the Basrah Bulletin. No, Sgt. Benjamin is not Basrah Betty, but you can still reach him for all your Basrah Bulletin needs by sending an e-mail to james.k.benjamin@iraq.centcom.mil or by calling DSN 858-4590.


Hang on; we’re not done yet! The 36th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office is proud to inform you that our first edition of “The Arrowhead” magazine is coming soon. Put together through the hard work and creativity of our journalists, in conjunction with our friends from the 305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment of Hawaii, The Arrowhead will be a monthly publication featuring you, the 36th ID Soldier.

The Arrowhead is the name of the very first publication ever produced for this great division. It was a short-lived product, but it first entertained and informed our

Soldiers when it was established during the fierce campaigns of World War I in 1919. As with the T-Patch, it is only fitting we bring these historic documents back to life during our momentous deployment here in Iraq for Operation New Dawn.

This may seem like an information overload, but I know I’d personally rather have more information than less. Each of our publications has a different focus, so you’ll always know where to go to get the information you need.

So start sending us your information! If we don’t have it, we can’t very well publish it, can we? Do you have a great story idea? Let us know! Send me your ideas and I’ll do my best to accommodate you. Send me an e-mail at merrion.lasonde@iraq.centcom.mil.

Arrowhead! 

Merrion LaSonde
Sgt. 1st Class
Editor

36th Infantry Division Judge Advocate General Your Legal Assistance Team

Having family issues and need to seek legal advice?
Need a will or a power of attorney?

The Legal Assistance office is here to help you with any legal concerns you have. Be worry free knowing you are protected with attorney/client confidentiality.

“A legal assistance attorney is the SOLDIER’S attorney; we represent YOU, not your command!”



Judge Advocate
Capt. Barbara Kerrane



Paralegal Specialist
Spc. Genevieve Plaza

Hours of operation & office location:

Monday-Saturday, 0800-1700

*Closed Mondays 1030-1300

Bldg #26G03

COB Basrah, Iraq

Contact Spc. Genevieve Plaza to schedule an appointment!

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B Co. - Capt. Kadett Derry

C Co. - Maj. John F. Kerby

D Co. - Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeff Lightsey

Arrowhead 6 Sends

The following is Maj. Gen. Eddy M. Spurgin's speech upon assuming command of U. S. Division-South.

“**A**'salam alaykum. General Austin; Lieutenant Generals Cone and Barbero; Charge Stuart Jones; senior commanders of the Iraqi Security Forces: let me first thank you all for attending this Transfer of Authority. Your presence here today honors us and reminds us of the importance of our mission on behalf of the people of Iraq.

To my good friend and colleague, Major General Vince Brooks, permit me to say what an honor it is to share the stage with you today. Your inspired leadership of U.S. Division-South over the past year set a new standard of excellence. Thank you for the outstanding work you did on behalf of this division and the people of Southern Iraq, and in making this transition as smooth and seamless as possible.

Those thanks go as well to the great officers and enlisted Soldiers of the Big Red One. Ninety-two years ago, our two divisions helped bring an end to the First World War in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. It seems fitting that we should serve together again near the end of a very different conflict, one that is no less important to the cause of world peace and stability.

The assistance the Soldiers of the Big Red One gave us throughout this process, starting with our Embed LNO program, our visit to Basrah last summer and again during our recent exercises at Fort Lewis, Washington, renewed the historic bond of fellowship between our two organizations. More importantly, the great work of the First I.D. over the past year truly set us up for success. Please accept our sincere thanks and warmest wishes as you return to Fort Riley, Kansas and rejoin your families for a well-earned rest. Be sure to keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we carry on the noble mission of U.S. Division-South here in Basrah.

To the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 3rd Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division, and the rest of the subordinate units in USD-South, thank you for the great work you're doing, day

after day, to help this headquarters do its mission and to give our Iraqi partners the advice, training, and assistance they need in order to succeed. My staff and I appreciate your efforts and we will do our best to give you the support and leadership you deserve.

To the people of Southern Iraq, let me say what a privilege it is to be a guest in this great country. On Wednesday I had the pleasure of seeing Camp Bucca turned over to the Iraqi people in an historic and dignified ceremony. Once a prison and U.S. base, the camp will now serve as the nucleus of an ambitious project called the Basrah Logistical City, which will bring jobs and clean water to thousands of Iraqis. The real stars on stage that day weren't the soldiers, the diplomats, the elected officials, or the businessmen, but a small group of local schoolchildren holding Iraqi flags and singing their national anthem. These children are the future of a secure, sovereign, and self-reliant Iraq. Their mere presence reminded us why we do what we do and how important our work here really is. The impressive performance of the Iraqi Security Forces during the recent Ashura commemorations was only the latest success story of many that prove the security of Iraq and the future of her children are in capable hands.

We will do everything in our power to ensure the Iraqi Security Forces have all the assistance they need in the months ahead, and we will do the same for our partners in the PRTs and the U.S. State Department, as we gradually transition the U.S. role in Southern Iraq over to a new consulate that will soon occupy these very grounds.

Last but not least, to the men and women of the 36th Infantry Division, this is the moment we've all been planning and preparing for, for what seems like an eternity. From PANAMAX in 2008, to Bright Star in 2009, to the Pre-Mobilization Training and seemingly endless command-post exercises of 2010, we have trained and prepared for this mission like no other in the recent history of our great division. Not only are the eyes of Texas upon us, as always, but the eyes of the United States and of the great people of Iraq as well.



Never before have I felt so honored to be part of such an outstanding team of selfless and dedicated citizen-soldiers. Sixty-seven years ago, ours was the first U.S. Army division to set foot on European soil when T-patchers stormed the beaches of Salerno, Italy. Today, we have the great responsibility of being among the last American units to leave Iraq, and we are committed to completing this mission with success and honor. Standing shoulder to shoulder, with perseverance and a clear sense of purpose, let us add a new chapter to the storied saga of the Arrowhead Division, one that future T-patchers can read about with pride. I have all the confidence in the world that we will succeed, and we will make our great state and our country proud.

In parting, I would like to quote an old Arab proverb: For every glance behind us, we have to look twice to the future. It reminds us that the future is where we should keep our eyes fixed, not the past. As we end this ceremony and return to our jobs, let us never forget the common purpose which unites us all is the future of Iraq and the enduring partnership between our two nations.”

Thank you. Shukran.

Eddy M. Spurgin
Major General
Commanding



A New Year, A New Division

36ID takes command of U.S. Division - South

Sgt. James Kennedy Benjamin
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

For Soldiers of U.S. Division-South, starting the New Year meant more than just giving up old habits and starting anew. It marked the ending of a great chapter in their history books and the beginning of a new one.

The commanding general of the 36th Infantry Division, a National Guard unit from Austin, Texas, assumed command of USD-S from the commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. in a Transfer of Authority ceremony held at the chapel on Contingency Operating Base Basrah, Jan. 2, 2011.

Maj. Gen. Eddy M. Spurgin assumed responsibilities of USD-S from Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, signifying the end of another successful overseas contingency operation for the 'Big Red One' division and the start of another for the 'Arrowhead' division.

"The 1st Inf. Div. has accomplished its two-fold mission of advising and assisting the Iraqi Security Forces in providing for the security of the Iraqi people," Brooks said, "and in supporting the efforts by the nine Provincial Reconstruction Teams in helping to advance Iraqi economic prosperity and civil society through good governance and the implementation of the rule of law."

Brooks commended Spurgin and the 36th Inf. Div. headquarters for "completing the preparatory journey... The best part of the experience awaits you. We are absolutely confident that you are ready to excel here in southern Iraq."

But above all, Brooks thanked his Iraqi partners for their bravery and persistent effort in ensuring Iraq and its people continue to

move forward from their many accomplishments in 2010.


"The Soldiers and commanders of the 'Big Red One,' 1st Inf. Div. are honored to have served side by side with you, making Iraq a beacon of hope," Brooks said. "Your success is our success, and we have been very successful indeed."

Spurgin offered thanks and congratulations to the Soldiers of the 1st Inf. Div. "Permit me to say what an honor it is to share this day with you today," Spurgin said to Brooks. "Your inspired leadership of U.S. Division-South over the past year set a new standard of excellence."

Not only will USD-S continue to provide support and assistance to the Iraqi Security Forces, Spurgin said, but to the PRTs and U.S. State Department as the division gradually transitions the U.S. role in southern Iraq to a new consulate in Basrah.

"This is the moment that we have all been planning and preparing for," Spurgin said to his Soldiers, naming the many difficult and diverse training exercises prior to deployment. "We have trained and prepared for this mission like no other in the recent history of our great division. Not only are the eyes of Texas upon us, as always, but the eyes of the United States and of the great people of Iraq as well."

"Today we have the great responsibility of being among the last American units to leave Iraq," Spurgin added. "And we are committed to completing this mission with success and honor."

"Standing shoulder to shoulder, with perseverance and a clear sense of purpose," Spurgin said, "let us add a new chapter to the storied saga of the Arrowhead division." 



U.S. Forces-Iraq commander, Gen. Lloyd J. Austin, and U.S. Division-South incoming commander, Maj. Gen. Eddy M. Spurgin, as well as his Command Sgt. Maj. Wilson Early, and the outgoing commander for 1st Inf. Div., Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks and Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne, salute the colors during the playing of the U.S. national anthem at the chapel on Contingency Operating Base Basrah Jan. 2 in a Transfer of Authority ceremony. 1st Inf. Div. relinquished responsibility for USD-S to 36th Inf. Div., a National Guard unit from Austin, Texas. (Photo by Sgt. James Kennedy Benjamin, 305th MPAD)

“When you hear the alert ...
Hit the dirt!”

Don't be a 'hero' and stay alive!

Get flat on the ground and make yourself a small target.
The higher you are, the greater your chance of injury from shrapnel!

Move to a bunker or other hardened area when you are told.
Not before! Your “CHU” is not a hardened structure.

Be accountable for yourself and your Soldiers. Always make
sure you have everyone!



“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!

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, then look for the folder you want. Folders are named after the photographer who took the photos. Each photographer will have sub-folders listed by the date the photos were taken, so if you have a general idea of who and when, it will be easy to find! 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!

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



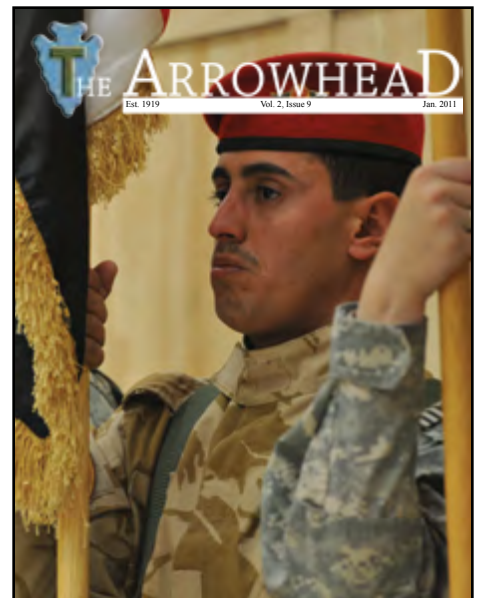
www.facebook.com/pages/36th-Infantry-Division



www.youtube.com/user/36IDArrowheadNetwork



pao36id.smugmug.com



Look for the first issue of The Arrowhead magazine, coming to you Jan. 15! Know somebody with a really cool hobby, or just an outstanding Soldier who deserves a spotlight? Let us know!

A New Dawn for Basrah Logistics City

Staff Sgt. Chanelcherie DeMello
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

A new dawn painted the sky over Camp Bucca on Dec. 29 as Old Glory was lowered and the Iraqi flag briskly raised, signifying the transfer of property from American care into Iraqi hands and the beginning of the new Basrah Logistics City.

Moments earlier, Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon, deputy commanding general for support, 1st Infantry Division and United States Division-South, had signed the official record-of-return documents with Sameer Alhaddad, the Receivership Secretariat, Iraqi Office of Prime Ministry.

“Today is a magnificent day for the citizens of Basrah Province, the Government of Iraq and for the U.S. as this ceremony marks another step for a sovereign, stable and self-reliant Iraq,” said Dragon.

Assets on the property grounds are valued at more than \$40 million.

Camp Bucca, once a detention camp until the fall of 2009, sits at the port of Umm Qasr and plans are in motion for transforming it into one of Basrah’s major business areas.

The transfer endowed some much needed infrastructure to the people of Basrah, including waste water treatment and water treatment plants. The waste water treatment plant



Members of the Iraqi Federal Police pose with the flag they raised over the Basrah Logistics City Dec. 29 after the Government of Iraq officially took control of the former detention camp controlled by U.S. forces. (Photos by Master Sgt. Kenneth Walker, 36th Infantry Division)

includes pools of water and solid waste beds that could be used for farming and cultivation in the near future.

“Considering we are in farmland, it’s very useful for the people down here, especially in the immediate area,” said 2nd Lt. Matthew Fumagalli, former civil military operations officer and project manager of the waste water facility.

The water treatment plant could provide 1.5 million gallons of potable drinking water to the town of Umm Qasr

as well as any future residents of the BLC, said Eric Leuffgen, mechanical engineer with the 553rd Engineer Detachment.

U.S. Provincial Reconstruction Teams are working with those responsible for building the permanent pipeline that runs from the plant to the nearby town of Umm Qasr, he added.

The strategic partnership between the United States and Iraq has produced tangible results that continue to stabilize and strengthen Iraq for the future. The transformation of BLC will aid in Iraq’s modernization and boost the region’s economy.

The BLC will emerge as a gateway to Iraq for trade and investment on a scale not seen here for many generations, added Peter Bodde, assistant chief of mission, U.S. Embassy-Baghdad.

“This is a new phase of investment and economy and it will flourish not only for the Basrah citizens, but for all of Iraq,” said Salih Abdul Mahdi, Mayor of Umm Qasr. “Iraqis will see much brighter and much better days.”



Maj. Gen. Eddy M. Spurgin, commanding general, 36th Infantry Division, visits with Lt. Gen. Mohammed Howaidi, commander of the Basrah Operations Command, during the transfer of the Basrah Logistics City Dec. 29.

United States Division-South



Inspector General

You may remain anonymous.
To complain without fear of reprisal
is the right of any Soldier, Civilian or
Family Member seeking IG help.

COB Basrah
Bldg. 26G13
(Behind Green Bean Coffee
next to Division HQ)
858-4597/858-4547

COB Adder
Bldg. 327
(Across the street from
the House of Pain)
833-1710/833-6550

usds-ig@iraq.centcom.mil



DINING FACILITY HOURS

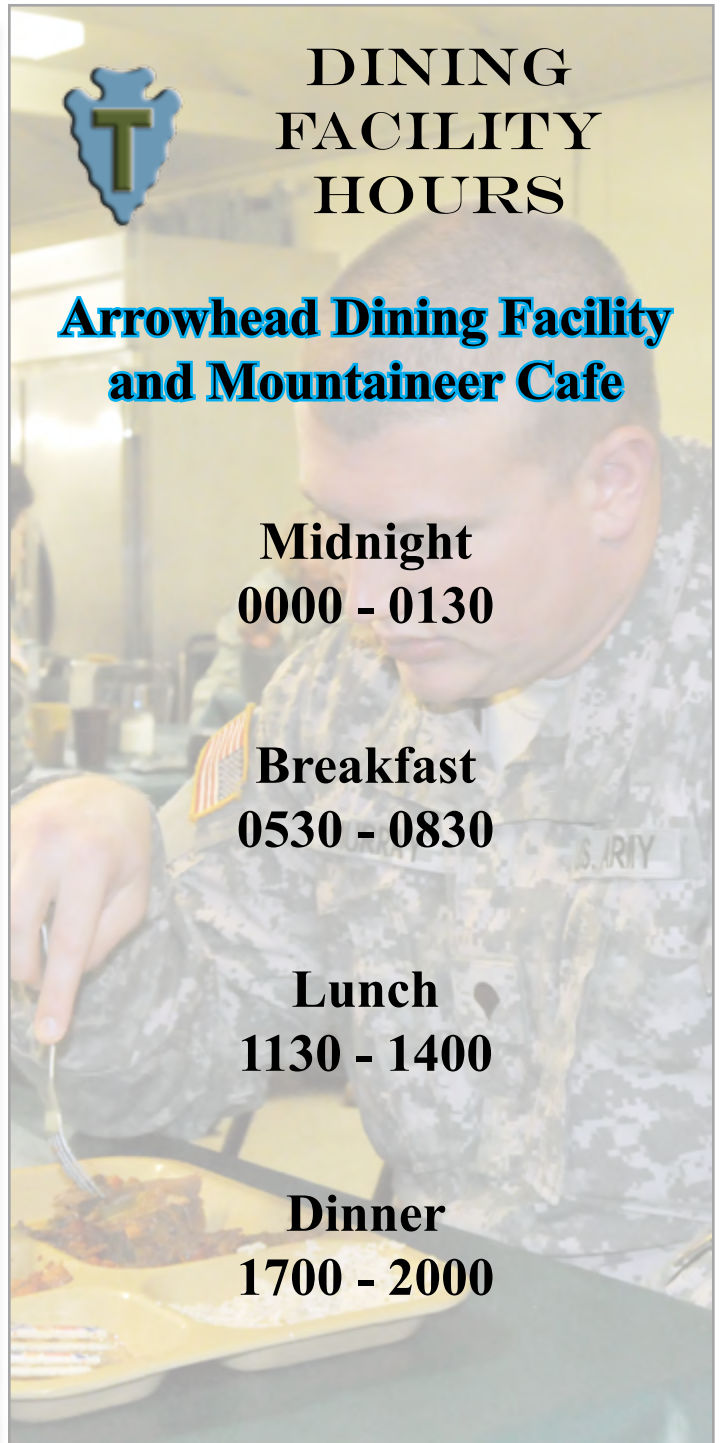
Arrowhead Dining Facility and Mountaineer Cafe

Midnight
0000 - 0130

Breakfast
0530 - 0830

Lunch
1130 - 1400

Dinner
1700 - 2000



36th Infantry Division Mail Call

Hours of Operations:
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Out bound certified/offical mail: 1000 - 2000

Mail pick up hours:

Mail Handlers: 1000 - 1200
1400 - 1600

Individual pick up: 1000 - 2000

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to get your mail!

Last Name, First Name

— Co., 36th ID

Unit # 124

APO AE 09374

Don't use your rank!



Headquarters Snapshots: Who We Are.



Capt. Kimberly Baird – The officer-in-charge of supply and services is a Freeport, N.Y., native and a 10-year veteran. She enlisted as a truck driver in 2000 and was commissioned in April 2004.

Baird majored in fashion merchandising in upstate New York, but after Sept. 11, she decided to wear combat boots full-time and has served on active orders since. She enjoys painting and intends to earn her masters degree in Art Education. Baird has also attended airborne school and earned her jump master badge.

She deployed to Kosovo in 2005 and said she views her second deployment as a chance for both professional and personal maturity. “Being exposed to a completely different environment and taking part of this historical (deployment) is an opportunity to learn and grow,”

Baird said. “On a personal level, I left (home) with a very strong, tight-knit family. I think this deployment will only strengthen that bond.”

Master Sgt. Patrick Ersch – This Crowley, Texas, native has racked-up 30 years in the National Guard; 22 of them as active guard reserve. The noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Joint Visitors Bureau initially enlisted as a truck driver with the 249th Main Support Battalion in Fredericksburg, Texas. Since then, he has worn multiple hats; supply sergeant, readiness NCO and battalion level operations NCO. Ersch set foot in Iraq Dec. 1 with the advance party. He said the deployment has gone well so far and he looks forward to helping establish democracy in Iraq.

“I want to be a part of changing a country, so the people can have the opportunity to be free and make their own decisions,” Ersch said.

In his early years, before going active, Ersch worked as a carpenter and continues to hone his craft in his spare time. As added entertainment, he has spent at least twice a month on the golf course for the last two years, with a personal best score of 85.



Spc. Alvaro Garcia – The administrative assistant to the effects sergeant major is not related to his boss, Sgt. Maj. Daniel Garcia. The El Paso, Texas, native is a student at the University of Texas, El Paso, and is working towards a mechanical engineering degree; an education he said gives him an advantage doing his present duties. Garcia is on his first deployment and said he hopes to learn as much as he can from the vast number of experienced Soldiers in the division. The 6-foot, 235-pound Soldier has lost approximately 15 pounds since setting foot in Iraq by working constantly on his physical fitness.

“Eating healthy is the biggest thing,” Garcia revealed. “Changing your eating habits really helps a lot. We do a lot of walking and physical training about three times a week.”

His primary military occupational skill is a field artillery tactical data system specialist and he started his fifth year in the National Guard this past December.



Chaplain Programs and Religious Services

Holy Joe's Coffee

(Coffee Bar and Fellowship)

Monday - Saturday

0600 - 2200

william.culver@iraq.centcom.mil

Ladies of the Rosary

Tuesday at 2000

COB Basrah Chapel

barbara.reilly@iraq.centcom.mil

Mid-Week Prayer with Chaplain Mays

Wednesday at 1200

COB Basrah Chapel

wayne.mays@iraq.centcom.mil

Basrah Chapel Bible Studies

Thursday

1900 - New Believers Bible Study

2000 - Bible Study Classes

Protestant Services

Sunday - COB Basrah Chapel

1000 - Contemporary Service

1130 - Traditional Service

1400 - Gospel Service

1700 - Liturgical Protestant

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS)

Sunday - Old PX Building

0900 - Sacrament Service

Roman Catholic

Saturday - COB Basrah Chapel

2000 - Rosary/Vigil Service

Sunday - COB Basrah Chapel

0830 - Catholic Service



36th Infantry Division Equal Opportunity Advisors Cell

**COB Basrah
Resiliency Campus
858-4672**

“Contact us if you are the victim of an Equal Opportunity or Sexual Harassment Complaint.”

Anonymous Tip Hotline on NIPR

<https://msc.forces.iraq.centcom.mil/usds/default.aspx>



Sgt. 1st Class
Joe Lawton

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Capt.
Lisa Ann Lerma

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Photo of the Week!

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!

Send your photos to:
36IDPAO@gmail.com

