



(Photo by Cpl. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

3... 2... 1...Happy New Year!

Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Prosperity ring in the New Year at the 'Black Jack Bistro.' Troops gathered at the bistro, listened to the 1st Cavalry Division Band, and then counted down the last seconds of 2006.

1-9 medic's quick action helps children, grandfather

By Spc. Courtney Marulli
2-2 Inf. Public Affairs

CAMP CORREGIDOR, Iraq - The fast actions of medics in the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment helped save the lives of three Iraqi children and their grandfather after mortar attacks by insurgent attacks.

The aid station medics received the family and provided medical care until the four casualties could be transported for fur-

ther treatment.

Sgt. 1st Class Brian W. Meade, of Elkhorn City, Ky., the medical platoon sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, was on duty when the casualties arrived.

Meade said one of the children, a 12-year-old, sustained an open fracture to his left femur. A 6-year-old received a shrapnel wound to the neck. The third child, age 12, had a wound to the left eye.

The children's grandfather was hit

with shrapnel in his back, but despite the seriousness of the injuries, Meade said none of them were life-threatening.

All the medics treated each patient like they would any injured Soldier, Meade said.

"It's great," he said. "I'm proud of these guys." Meade said he is proud of his medics ability to put emotions aside when working on children. Many of them have

See Medics Page 3



(Photo by Pfc. Shea Butler, 7th MPAD)

What's hiding in here?




Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker BCT, 2nd Inf. Div. search under a stairwell in a Baghdad home on Dec. 22. The Soldiers found hidden ammunition in the residence during the operation.

Arabic Phrase
of the Day

mustawsif

Defined:
clinic

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report

	Today	Tomorrow	Friday
			
High: 58 Low: 28	High: 61 Low: 28	High: 54 Low: 39	

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Training takes over for medics in tough situations

Medics

From Page 1

children of their own, which can make treating a child more difficult.

Sgt. Scott E. Meyers, of Lincoln, Neb., the battalion aid station non-commissioned officer in charge for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, said everyone helps all who come to the aid station.

"We help anyone when they come in here," he said. "We fix them up and get them out."

Meyers said a lot of the professionalism in tragic situations comes from the extensive training the medics received before deploying. He said his medics are outstanding.

"We have a great team of medics here," he said. "We don't have to tell people what to do."

Meyers said approaching children when they are undergoing trauma is one of those situations. When children are brought into the aid station, Meyers said the medics talk very calmly to them.

"They come in really con-

fused and scared," he said.

An interpreter is brought into the aid station and Meyers said the medics talk to the children and tell them exactly what they are about to do and if it will hurt.

"Everything went well," Meyers said of treating the children and their grandfather.

"I am glad to help out. It felt good to help the civilians. It shows ... that we're here to help out. Hopefully, that will

help in the community," he added.

Spc. Adam J. DeCap, of Hillsdale, Ill., a treatment NCO, said he felt good after helping the three children and their grandfather.

"It shows the Iraqi people...you're here to help out in more ways than one," DeCap said.

Treating the three children wasn't an easy task, DeCap said, as he has nieces and

nephews that age.

"I was an EMT (emergency medical technician) before joining the Army and working on kids has always been hard for me," he said.

It's also hard to work on children, DeCap said, because it's hard to see the damage that occurs in combat. However, when the time come to aid a casualty, DeCap said he puts his job in the forefront of his mind and goes on auto pilot.



(Photo by Spc. Courtney E. Marulli, 2-2 Inf. Public Affairs)

Spc. Adam DeCap (left to right), Sgt. Scott Meyers, and Sgt. 1st Class Brian Meade saved four Iraqis with their quick actions. DeCap said it's hard to see the damage done to children during war, but in those situations training takes over.

Odierno visits troops during the holidays

Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, commanding general of Multi-National Corps-Iraq, gives coins to paratroopers of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) 25th Infantry Division during his trip to Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq. Odierno visited the FOB to greet the paratroopers during the holidays.



(Photo by Sgt. J.H. French, 4-25 Inf. Public Affairs)

Soldier chokes down sweet potatoes for charity

By Spc. Nathan Hoskins
1st ACB Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - "I would like some yams with a side of yams and some yams with that, as well. If you could just give me a huge can of yams, I'll be set."

Not too many people will make this request. Aside from it not being very healthy, it really does not offer a wide variety for the palate.

But what if it was for a higher cause? What if someone said you would make some children's lives a little better by consuming some yams - a lot of yams.

That happened to Island Lake, Ill., native Sgt. Thomas Noga, an early warning system operator for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

"We were having a gift exchanging party in the tactical operations center. When I went up to claim my prize, I had a captain approach me before I got to open it," he said.

That gift turned out to be a large - 42 ounces large - can of yams. Then the challenge was announced.

The challenger, a captain from HHC, 1st ACB, told the Soldiers in attendance that Baker Victory Services, or BVS, a nonprofit special education school for students with severe emotional and behavioral disabilities, had sent out 10 care packages full of goodies, and he had received one.

The challenge from the captain was if whoever received the can of yams could eat the entire seven servings contained inside within two minutes, then the captain would

add another \$200 to the amount he was already donating to BVS, said Fort Washington, Md., native Sgt. Teri Parker, an intelligence analyst for HHC, 1st ACB.

"It was based off whoever picked up the gift so it could've been anybody. It just happened to be me," said Noga.

"We were hoping for Sgt. Noga to actually get it and he pulled it! That's the funny part of it. We know he loves those eating games," Parker said, while laughing.

What made the challenge all the more interesting was that Noga had never eaten yams in his entire life, he said.

"I had never had yams [prior to this]. I pretty much knew kind of what they were ... I'll say this, I'll never have them again," Noga said.

The day came for the challenge and Noga was ready. He donned his fancy trash bag bib, stood on a floor mat and took the stance of a fighter willing to risk losing his lunch for charity.

"After the first bite I knew I was going to have a hard time with it. They were nasty. They were lukewarm. They were horrible," said Noga.

With time dwindling down, Noga faced the temptation to give up.

"I got to about a minute and thirty seconds and they were counting off the time and I still had a bit left. I was like 'I don't know if I can do this,'" Noga recalled.

Like a good Soldier, Noga drove on despite the adversity, said the captain.

"The American Soldier will never cease to amaze you. I guess it was a show of selfless service ... or maybe it was personal courage, too," the captain

joked. "He was just slopping it and shoveling it in there."

"I had already gagged about seven times. Finally, with thirty seconds left, I'm like, 'I've gotten this far! I'm going to finish this!'" Noga said.

And he did finish. With only three seconds remaining,

Noga consumed the full seven servings of yams.

"It felt good to watch him do it. I was rooting for him. I was that much poorer because of it, but I was still richer for the experience," said the captain. "I attribute it to the American Soldier."



(Photo by Pfc. Nichelle Sauls, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade)

Although he had never eaten them before, Sgt. Thomas Noga, an early warning system operator for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, eats a seven-serving size can of yams in two minutes to help raise money for Baker Victory Services. The challenge took place at Camp Taji, Iraq, Dec. 26 and was issued by a captain from HHC, 1st ACB, who wished to remain anonymous due to his charitable donations.

Former Chicago Bears football star leads New Year's Eve celebrity visit to Loyalty

By Maj. Sean Ryan
2nd BCT, 2nd Infantry Division PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq - While many people back home are preparing for the New Year going to parties or getting ready to watch the ball drop in New York's Times Square on television, deployed Soldiers here were looking at another "Groundhog Day" of missions. Fortunately, two former football stars, one current weatherman and one television actress had another mission in mind - visiting Soldiers over the holiday season.

FOB Loyalty was the last stop on the two-day Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored tour. Soldiers from the 2nd "Strike Force" Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division eagerly welcomed their first distinguished visitors from the civilian world.

The welcomed guests included former football stars Jim McMahon and Kevin Butler, actress Karri Turner of "JAG" fame and CBS "The Early Show" weatherman Dave Price.

Soldiers not on missions came in droves to see two members of what many experts call the best Super Bowl team in history, the 1985 Chicago Bears. Jim McMahon, who said he was focused on coming to Iraq for quite a while and felt



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Bronco Suzuki, 2-2 Inf. Public Affairs)

CBS "The Early Show" weatherman Dave Price high-fives with Cpt. Michael Fitzpatrick, both New Jersey natives, during the "Ring in the New Year Tour" visit to Forward Operating Base Loyalty in east Baghdad Dec. 31.

privileged to be a part of the tour and meet all the Soldiers.

McMahon signed pictures, footballs and ensured all Soldiers who wanted pictures with him received them.

The other member of "Da Bears" was former kicker Kevin Butler. Butler said he was honored to get a chance to meet Soldiers and see first hand their sacrifices. Butler's son is one of the top place kickers and punters in the nation at the high school level and said he was amazed at the com-

petence level of our young Soldiers only a year or two older than his own son.

Staff Sgt. Roy Jackson, a civil affairs noncommissioned officer, said anytime somebody takes their time to come see troops is a big boost to morale.

"It's nice the stars make the time to come see us," he said.

The dangerous missions will continue for the Soldiers of "Strike Force," but the visits to FOB Loyalty helped raise morale to new levels.

TELEVISION							
	8:00p.m.	8:30p.m.	9:00p.m.	9:30p.m.	10:00p.m.	10:30p.m.	11:00p.m.
	Sports Center		NFL Live	NBA Fastbreak	Sports Center		Men's College Basketball
	Prime News Tonight		NBC Nightly News	ABC World News	Sesame Street		The View
	Special Report with Brit Hume		Your World with Neil Cavuto		World News Now		ATIS/Regional News