

The Daily Roar

Daily Newspaper created by the Soldiers, for the Soldiers

VOL. 1, NO. 331

MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

January 14, 2009

ISF, Coalition Forces plan for success

By Spc. Jamie Vernon

2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div.
BAGHDAD – Leaders from Task Force 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and 3rd Brigade, 1st National Police Division, attended their first Joint Targeting Meeting at Combat Outpost Cashe South, southeast of Baghdad, Jan. 9.

“The Combined Targeting Meeting helped provide 3-1 NP’s with insight on how Task Force Knight develops their independent targeting within the operational environment.

The National Police actively participated in the combined process, creating an open dialogue between NP leadership and their respective task force partners,” said Capt. Joseph Philips, a native of



photo by Capt. Joe Philips, 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div.

Maj. Dave Raugh, executive officer of Task Force 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and Iraqi Police Maj. Gen. Emad, commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Iraqi National Police Division, chair the joint targeting meeting at Combat Outpost Cashe, southeast of Baghdad, Jan. 9.

Atlanta, Ga., and the Iraqi Security Force liaison officer of TF 1-35.

The Iraqi Police has become closely partnered with the Knights due to the grow-

ing responsibilities of the Iraqi Security Forces. The meeting was held to discuss the most recent success, the beginning of joint targeting, and marked the beginning of combined targeting efforts.

During the meeting, leaders from TF 1-35 demonstrated the targeting process and allowed input from the Iraqi Police and subordinate battalions, enabling them to work more proficiently.

“This is a historic moment in the partnership between 3-1 NP and TF Knight,” said Maj. David Raugh, a native of Altoona, PA., and the executive officer of 1st Bn., 35th Armd. Regt.

“From this point forward, we will share a joint vision toward lethal and non-lethal operations and work together, hand-in-hand, to accomplish our goals.”

Lonestar Dustoff’s primary mission to save lives

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

CAB PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Medical evacuation Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, the “Lonestar” Dustoff company, have one mission – save lives on the battlefield.

During the first six months of their deployment, the Fort Hood, Texas, based Soldiers have achieved a 96 percent operational readiness rate, flown more than 254 patients in need of treatment, medially evacuated more than 120 urgent and priority patients and consistently went ‘wheels up’ in less time than the 15-minute call

to launch standard – leading the way for Multi-National Corps – Iraq MEDEVAC companies Jan. 10.

“We are the theater MEDEVAC company for MND-B and parts of Multi-National Corps – Iraq,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dennis Fletcher, aeromedical pilot from Sunnyvale, Calif. “We respond to any nine-line MEDEVAC call to us. On average, we respond to a call in nine minutes and that’s from getting the call to wheels up.”

The company performs its duties much like a regular ambulance

See CAB Pg. 2



By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt, CAB PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, prepare to evacuate a patient at Camp Liberty to the 10th Combat Support Hospital Jan. 10. Soldiers from the company have one mission - save lives on the battlefield.

CAB's Lonestar Dustoff leads the way

CAB, From Pg 1

company in the United States with Soldiers rotating on shifts. A MEDEVAC crew consists of two pilots, one crew chief and one flight medic.

The crew starts their day by making sure their aircraft is ready to go at a moment's notice. As an essential part of their fast-paced lifestyle, they complete maintenance checks, stock medical supplies and personal protective gear is always within arm's reach.

Then once the crew gets the call, "MEDEVAC, MEDEVAC, MEDEVAC..." it's time to sprint to the waiting helicopter and save a life on the battlefield.

"Today, was my first day on my shift," said Sgt. Donald Jones, flight medic from Lawton, Okla. "For the first mission on this shift, we had a EPW (enemy prisoner of war) with a gunshot wound to the leg which was urgent. We were off the ground and out of here in eight minutes."

The company facilitates the safest and most rapid evacuation of all casualties to

include Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, civilians and even prisoners of war.

Some of the their evacuations take them to the most dangerous parts of the battlefield

"What I love most about this job is I'm helping make a difference in someone's life when they are injured," added Jones, who is on his second deployment to Iraq with the company. "Mentally, you just try blocking all the drama out when someone is injured and do your best when you MEDEVAC someone. That's when the training kicks in and you are focused on saving their life. This is a difficult job, but it is very rewarding."

In addition to continuing to get more efficient at launch time, Soldiers from the company have been rewarded for their hard work and dedication.

On July 18, 2008, with only three days under their belt after assuming the mission from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade out of Germany, four Soldiers from the company responded to a rescue mission where four Iraqi National Police Officers were trapped on top of a burning building in

eastern Baghdad.

In a daring rescue using the helicopters hoist as a step, the air ambulance crew medically evacuated the trapped policemen and transported them to a combat support hospital for further treatment.

For their heroic actions, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Matthew Nall, aeromedical pilot from Lubbock, Texas, Staff Sgt. Christina Martinez, flight medic from Alamogordo, N.M., and Spc. Lakwan Bonsu, crew chief from Bronx, N.Y., were awarded the Air Medal with Valor from Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey at Camp Taji Dec. 22. Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Frederick, aeromedical pilot from Lubbock, Texas, is scheduled to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroic actions that day by the 4th Inf. Div. and MND-B commander, Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond.

"Our foundation for success is our passion and commitment to the Soldiers outside the wire on the streets of Baghdad," said Capt. Christopher Wingate, executive officer of the company and commander of the Camp Taji operation.



by Spc. Benjamin Crane, MND-B PAO

Vice president-elect visits MND-B

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Vice president-elect Joe Biden signs a “Flat Stanley” belonging to Capt. Dan Lancaster, a Greenville, S.C., native, who serves with 18th Fires Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, in the Ironhorse Oasis dining facility on Camp Liberty Jan. 12. Biden, along with Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., came to Baghdad after visiting troops in Afghanistan. During the dinner, Biden answered questions and talked about his upcoming inauguration as vice president.



courtesy photo

Soldier in Focus

Today’s Soldier in Focus is SpC. Georgina Gialdella, an intelligence analyst assigned to Company B, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, who works in the Analysis and Control Element of the division intelligence section. Gialdella, a native of Woodstock, Ga., joined the Army in 2005 and has been serving with 4th Inf. Div. since April 2007. She is in her first deployment to Iraq, having previously served a tour in Korea prior to her assignment to the Ironhorse division. “I learn a lot of things from all sorts of different people that I work with. It’s a very busy atmosphere,” she said. The best part about her job is that she is able to know what is going on all around the operational environment and that the intelligence analyzed by her and her co-workers trickles down to the lowest levels to be used in hopefully saving lives, she said.

Iraqis celebrate IP Day in Diwaniya

By Sgt. Rodney Foliente,
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP ECHO, Iraq – The city of Diwaniya held a celebration for Iraqi Police Day at the downtown parade field Jan. 8.

The ceremony was hosted by Maj. Gen. Safa Jassim, provincial director of police, with the governor of Diwaniya and provincial council members among the guests of honor in attendance.

“We appreciate the hard work of the Iraqi Police. They do an outstanding job. We congratulate them and honor their anniversary,” said Gov. Hamid al-Khudari, during the ceremony.

Local policemen from the different branches paraded before their audience in marching formations or rode in vehicles, followed by members of the fire department. Some of the police elements also put on demonstrations during the ceremony. Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics team demonstrated

apprehending a group of criminals who were driving in a vehicle.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal team then demonstrated diffusing an improvised explosive device, followed by a perfor-



by Pfc. Seth Barham, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Iraqi Police bearing their nation’s flags march across the parade field during a celebration of IP Day in downtown Diwaniya Jan. 8.

mance by the martial arts team, who also formed a human pyramid, with the Iraqi flag proudly waving at its peak.

Heaters and blankets were also presented to the Family members of fallen policemen, who were honored for paying the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

“The IP are progressing. They’re doing very well. They’ve come a tremendous way from what they were a few years ago especially, but even from a few months ago,” said Lt. Col. Douglas Cardinale, commander, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The battalion is currently working to help professionalize the IP.

“The IP are extremely important to the security of Iraq. The IP are the ones that the populace has the most contact with, even more so than the Iraqi Army eventually,” said Cardinale.



Photos by Pfc. Lyndsey Dransfield, MND-B, PAO

Player of the day

Today's player of the day is Sgt. Jess Storie, a Claremore, Okla. native and his search dog, Jose. The two were conducting search operations on Dec. 20 when Jose responded next to a Company Commanders Humvee. This resulted in the identification of an IED and saved the lives of the Soldiers inside the Humvee. Both Storie and Jose are without a doubt the players of the day.



by Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Whelan, MNC-I

Shulla Library improved

BAGHDAD – An Iraqi student reads a book in a library that is being renovated in the Shulla neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan. 8. Soldiers from the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad recently visited the library to check on progress and assess how the Government of Iraq and Coalition Forces can provide further assistance to the project.

◆ This Week in 4th Infantry Division History ◆

WWII 1945 – On 13 Jan, the enemy attacked in the 8th Infantry's area near Hinkel and succeeded in capturing three officers and seventeen men. In the 22nd Infantry's sector, a small group of the enemy crossed the Sauer River and established themselves in bunkers. The 22nd successfully cleared the bunkers taking four prisoners of war. At the end of this week the Division was relocated to new positions facing north along the Sure and Sauer Rivers. From these positions the Division launched an attack to the north across the Sure River on 18 January.

Daily Iron Games

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

2	5					8		
			1		2			5
4	8			5				
			3			7		
3	8						9	2
		1			9			
				9		4		7
6			8		1			
		4					8	9

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Tuesday's Sudoku challenge results

5	9	4	6	1	8	2	3	7
1	7	8	4	2	3	6	5	9
3	6	2	5	7	9	4	1	8
2	4	3	1	5	7	8	9	6
7	8	1	9	6	2	3	4	5
6	5	9	8	3	4	1	7	2
4	3	7	2	9	6	5	8	1
9	1	6	3	8	5	7	2	4
8	2	5	7	4	1	9	6	3

Safety Sense

Cold Weather –

All too often we focus on recognizing and treating cold weather injuries. However, the more important issue is the lack of prevention. Any activity in wet clothes has a different affect on your thermal balance compared to cold air. Did you know heat loss is about 25 times higher when wet than when dry and can quickly leave you susceptible to the effects of hypothermia? Soldiers and leaders should remember the acronym “**COLD**” for dressing in the cold and avoiding hypothermia. Keep it **C**lean, avoid **O**verheating, wear **L**oose layers and **D**ry clothes.

Weapons Awareness Reminders

- Weapons must always be treated as if they are loaded and muzzle discipline maintained.
- Weapons are not to be carried with finger on the trigger.
- Soldiers must ensure weapons are on safe when not actively engaged.
- Ensure Soldiers know the proper procedures for clearing weapons which are jammed.
- Proper PMCS and annual checks are to be performed on all weapons using the applicable “-10” or “-20”.
- Ensure the proper head-space and timing is preformed on .50 cal. prior to firing.
- Remember to use the required slings for M4, M16, M249, and M240B (when carrying).
- When carrying an M9, always use a holster that points the weapon down and lanyard.
- Weapons must be cleared at the clearing barrels, after missions, and upon arrival at FOB, COP, JSS, PB; unless told otherwise.
- Ensure SQU LDR, PLT SGT, PLT LDR are actively engaged with their Soldiers in validating that their crew served and small arms weapons are cleared!
- References: 4ID OIF Leaders Handbook, MND-B Accident Prevention Plan (section 10), and appropriate weapons TMs.



Army Safe is Army Strong!

Stay Focused!

Stay Alert!

Stay Alive!

BEETLE BAILEY

BY GREG & MORT WALKER



David Letterman's Top Tips For Making It In Hollywood

10. Stay positive; develop your craft...ah, who am I kidding? Work hard sucking up to rich idiots who can help your career
9. When someone sees one of my movies, I call them at home the next day to thank them
8. Four words: Pantene Moisture Renewal Shampoo
7. Don't hassle the Hoff
6. Make a video. Folks love to see famous people's personal lives.
5. Here's what I did; answered an ad in the newspaper for "movie stars"
4. Get yourself a sneezing monkey
3. Avoid taxes by declaring yourself a church
2. Don't miss a chance to shamelessly promote your work -- and go see the hilarious new film "Marley & Me," now playing at a theater near you
1. Try to do something funny on Leno

Chaplain's Inspiration

Enthusiasm increases a person's accomplishments while apathy increases his alibis. Microsoft chairman Bill Gates remarked, "What I do best is share my enthusiasm." If asked, would your teammates say that you have a similar affect on them? Remember enthusiasm is contagious. Let us work to motivate, encourage and inspire our Soldiers as they fight to protect and secure the population of Iraq.

Proverbs 15:13 "A glad heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit."

Daily Laugh

If "I am" is reportedly the shortest sentence in the English language, could it be that "I do" is the longest sentence?


Hometown Briefs

Lamborn back on military panel
The Gazette


Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colo., has been reappointed to the House Armed Services Committee, a position from which he can influence military spending in Colorado's 5th Congressional District.

Lamborn was also reappointed to the House Natural Resources Committee, but he did not keep his seat on the Veterans Affairs committee.

As a freshman congressman in 2007, Lamborn had to wait 10 months before getting a seat on the Armed Services Committee, which is one of the most powerful in the House. His spokeswoman, Catherine Mortensen, said Lamborn might face competition again this year, in part because the number of Republican slots on the committee declined from 28 in 2008 to 25 this year.

Federal grant makes alternatives possible
Killeen Daily Herald


Bell County's older residents will have more options when it comes to their long-term healthcare.

The Central Texas Council of Governments hosted a ribbon cutting Monday morning, signifying a new partnership between Scott & White Healthcare and the Central Texas Area Agency on Aging.

The organizations received a federal grant to develop and test a home-based healthcare project, allowing Central Texas's elderly population the option of receiving healthcare assistance at home instead of a nursing home.

Participants in the Central Texas Nursing Home Diversion Demonstration Project will receive thorough assessments, long-term care options counseling and access to personal attendants.

Family caregivers of program participants will receive training and support. Patients' homes will also be adjusted to accommodate medical equipment such as wheelchairs.

This grant will help to reduce Medicaid spending for nursing homes, and allow patients with serious illnesses, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, the ability to receive sustainable at-home healthcare.

Medicaid payments to area nursing homes totaled \$38 million in 2003.

Richard McGhee, director of the Central Texas Area Agency on Aging, and Alan Stevens, director of Scott & White's Program on Aging and Care, developed the program.

The project, which begins March 1, is the only one of its kind in Texas. It will include residents in Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas and Milam counties. Programs in 14 other states received a similar grant.

"We want to provide data to change the national policy," Stevens said. "The project allows people to have another choice in home healthcare, a choice that we know people would prefer as opposed to going to a nursing home."

Data gathered after the conclusion of the 18-month-long project will be used to reshape the way state governments allocate money for senior healthcare services.

"I had an elderly aunt, dad and mother who wound up in nursing homes," said Jack Oliver, former county commissioner of precinct 4, who attended Monday's ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Captain lends aid in ocean tragedy
The Honolulu Star Bulletin


Flames erupted furiously from a boat near the rocky shore of the Big Island as Kona tour boat captain Deron Verbeck pulled his vessel nearer.



"The captain of the boat is in the water!" someone on shore shouted.

Fire Department rescue personnel were also at the scene of the Sunday morning accident, so Verbeck motored back out to sea, following a trail of debris from the blazing boat.

He told his crew to look into the water, not at the surface.

"We're looking for a body now," he told them.

Moments later he saw rescue personnel pull the captain's body from the sea.

Authorities identified the captain as Robert Lewis, 57, of Kona.

Lewis lost his life after he went to the aid of two kayakers. A cause of death has not been announced.

Lewis' wife, also 57, was thrown from their 18-foot fiberglass boat but was rescued, authorities said. She was taken to Kona Community Hospital in guarded condition.

The kayakers escaped without major injury.

Verbeck had seen the kayakers fishing a quarter-mile offshore when he left Honokohau Small Boat Harbor before 8 a.m. and headed five miles down the coast to pick up passengers at Kailua Bay. They planned a tour of Kealakekua Bay farther south.

He canceled the tour when he saw a wall of clouds coming from the north and felt 50 mph winds. He also saw Fire Department rescue personnel heading north in a boat.

They asked for help looking for kayakers.

Rain pelted Verbeck's face as he headed north. Through it he saw a fishing boat headed toward the rocks, then a huge billow of black smoke.

"That boat's on fire," he told his crew. "We're going over there to see if they need help."

He saw three people on shore, two tending to the third.

That was when he heard that the captain was in the water.

Waves put out the fire, and a would-be rescue boat tried to pull the charred boat off the rocks, but the cleat holding a rope tore out.

Verbeck got a line and started towing, but the boat burst into flames again. Fire Department personnel used extinguishers to put it out.

Boy alerts residents to house fire
The Fayetteville Observer


A 12-year-old boy walking to lunch is being called a hero for saving the lives of six people when he saw smoking coming from their northwest Charlotte home.

The Charlotte Observer reports that Charlotte Fire Capt. Mark Basnight said the boy, who is home-schooled, was on his way to a fast-food restaurant when he noticed smoke rising from a back porch.

He rushed to alert the residents.

Authorities said an elderly woman who was one of the residents apparently was cleaning the stove when her robe caught fire.

She took it off, and put it on the back porch — unaware the robe was burning.

Hometown Briefs

Two candidates file for school boards

The Capital Journal

 The lineup for the spring school board elections continues to take shape.

The latest to file for election include a teacher making his first run for the school board in Shawnee Heights Unified School District 450 and a veteran board member seeking re-election in Topeka USD 501.

Candidates have until noon Jan. 27 to file for office. Meet the newest candidates:

- Doug Glenn, the longest-serving board member in Topeka USD 501, is running for his third term to the Position 1, District 1 seat.

For Glenn, a director at CBIZ Accounting and Tax Advisory, it is a challenge that elections coincide with his busy tax season. But the 53-year-old said serving on the board has been a rewarding and challenging experience.

“My thought on school board service is you work as a team along with the superintendent to impact student achievement,” he said. “It really boils down to that instruction in the classroom and giving our students the best shot at doing the best they can achieving all they can.”

- Teacher Jason Crawford is seeking the District A, Position 4 seat in Shawnee Heights. Incumbent Ann Dunn isn’t running.

Crawford, 31, teaches business courses at Lawrence High School and lives in Shawnee Heights with his wife, 1-month-old son and 4-year-old son. Also, the Family regularly hosts foreign exchange students and currently has a German student living with them.

Mecom sells German media holdings

The Local

 German discount grocer Aldi plans to open at least 75 stores in the United States in the coming year, hoping to draw traditional Wal-Mart shoppers to even cheaper deals during the economic downturn, The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday.

According to the paper, “Aldi is so cheap that Wal-Mart Stores Inc. closed its discount outlets in Germany two years ago partly because shoppers found the US giant too expensive in comparison.”

Because Aldi’s goods are almost entirely the retailer’s own brands, they are banking on Americans turning away from their name-brand loyalty while pinching their pennies as their budgets tighten, finding prices up to 20 percent cheaper than Wal-Mart’s, the paper reported.

“This is the perfect confluence of factors for us,” Jason Hart, president of Aldi’s US division, told the paper.

The company, which also owns Trader Joe’s specialty food stores, already has some 1,000 stores in the US after coming to the country in 1976, but current economic factors make an expansion more appealing and urgent, the paper said.

“The push comes as the retailer is running out of room to grow in its German home market, where an estimated 90 percent of households shop at its stores, and Aldi and other deep discounters account for 40 percent of all grocery sales,” the paper reported.

The US Aldi stores will have more produce and a “less-cramped” and brighter feeling to suit pickier middle-class American customers.

Public schools, colleges may lose \$700M

The Montgomery Advertiser

 Just because state officials aren’t surprised by the estimate that public schools and colleges in Alabama will need to cut more than \$700 million in funding during the next two years doesn’t mean they aren’t concerned.

“That is still a big mountain to climb,” State Schools Superintendent Joe Morton said.

Morton, Alabama Education Association head Paul Hubbert and state Rep. John Knight, D-Montgomery, all said they were not surprised by the estimates released by the Legislative Fiscal Office on Monday.

But they said the cuts will be painful. And publicly, they said they do not know where they will be able to make the cuts.

Morton said Alabama law requires the State Board of Education to adopt a budget that the members believe meets the state’s education needs. That proposed budget for 2010, he said, includes \$350 million in spending increases, not hundreds of millions in cuts.

The superintendent said there are no concrete plans to make those cuts and officials are in a “state of flux.”

Morton said he would want cuts “where there is the least amount of damage to the classroom.”

“It will not be easy,” he said.

Cutting out new textbooks only reduces the budget by \$42 million, Morton said.

Morton said layoffs could be a reality. Already, he knows there will be fewer employees in August than there are now.

Hubbert said he wants teaching personnel protected from cuts.

If the economy does not turn around, he said, “this will be the worst I’ve seen in 40 years.” There could be “very, very dark days ahead,” he said.

Cities examine recycling services

The Dallas Morning News

 The economic downturn has reached the unlikely of places: your recycle bin

Demand for recycled materials such as glass and cardboard has taken a nosedive in recent months, pinching cities and recyclers that rely on the sale of those materials to make a buck.

Many communities have used their recyclables to make a little extra cash.

Those days are over, at least for now. Dallas is considering storing its recycled materials until the economy rebounds.

Plano has seen its recycling profits fall 75 percent recently.

Fort Worth, which in the past has churned out up to \$2 million in annual profits from its operation, now faces the prospect of losing money.

Irving and Richardson are bracing for similar squeezes.

“I don’t think there’s a city out there that’s not facing these issues,” said Kim A. Mote, Fort Worth’s assistant director of environmental management.

Gauging how the situation might affect homeowners and businesses is hard because every city handles recycling differently.

The widest impact may be higher residential sanitation fees for many in the not-too-distant future. Most cities combine trash and recycling into one fee, charging residents on average between \$10 and \$15 a month.

Sports

Lowe and Braves nearing \$60M, 4-yr deal

Associated Press

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Braves worked to bolster their rotation, closing in Tuesday on a \$60 million, four-year deal with Derek Lowe, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Talks were continuing on final deal points and no letter of agreement had been signed, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the contract had not been completed. Atlanta also finalized a three-year contract with Japanese all-star pitcher Kenshin Kawakami.

A 14-game winner for the Dodgers in 2008, Lowe visited the Braves last week after longtime Atlanta pitcher John Smoltz agreed to a \$5.5 million, one-year deal with the Boston Red Sox.

Lowe, who also was sought by the rival New York Mets, would be a huge addition to a rotation devastated by injuries in 2008. Smoltz, Tim Hudson and Tom Glavine all had season-ending surgeries.

The Braves had hoped to re-sign Smoltz for a 22nd season in Atlanta, but he took a

deal from the Red Sox that included more guaranteed money and the chance to earn another \$5 million largely based on how much time he spends on the active roster.

Atlanta also must replace injury plagued left-hander Mike Hampton, who returned to the mound last season after missing two full years. He spurned an offer from the Braves to sign with Houston.

In an interesting twist, the Braves looked to wrap up a contract with the 35-year-old Lowe and scheduled an afternoon news conference with Kawakami on the same day Smoltz was being introduced in Boston.

Kawakami, the 2004 Central League MVP, has won 112 games in 11 seasons in Japan and was regarded as one of the top free-agent pitchers from Japan available this offseason. The 33-year-old was 9-5 for the Chunichi Dragons last year, though he missed several weeks with a strained back.

The Braves were confident in his health after the 5-foot-10 right-hander passed a physical on Monday. He will be the first Japanese-born player in franchise history.

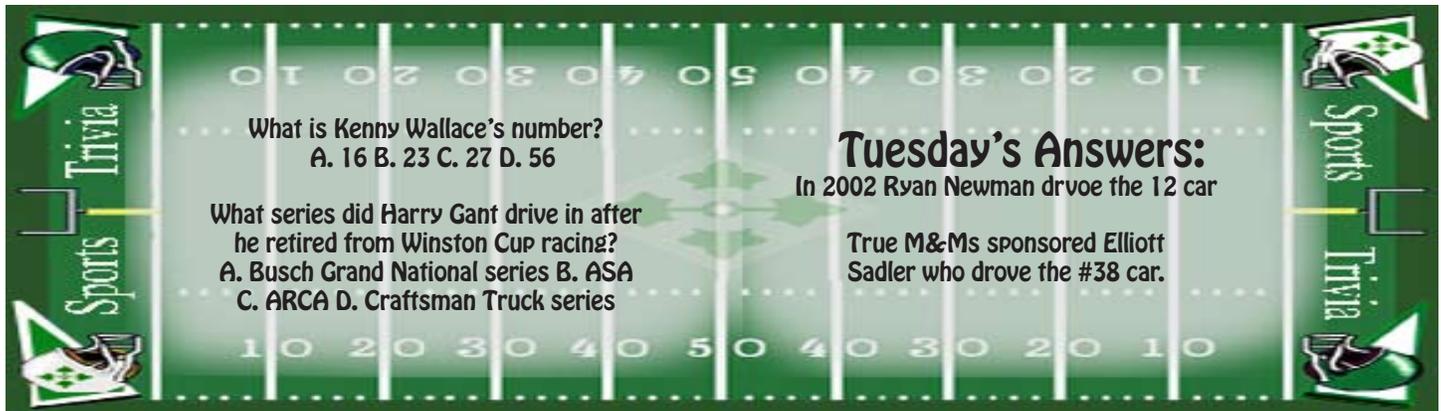
“This is a very significant signing for the Braves,” general manager Frank Wren said. “Not only is this a historically important day for the Braves franchise, but with Kenshin we have acquired a pitcher who will be an integral part of our pitching staff over the next three seasons.”

Though many Atlanta fans were outraged over the loss of Smoltz, Wren moved quickly to shore up the beleaguered rotation. Lowe was a 21-game winner for the Red Sox in 2002 and spent the last four seasons in Los Angeles, where he went 54-48, never had an ERA higher than 3.88 and averaged more than 200 innings a season.

Last season, Lowe was 14-11 with a 3.24 ERA in 211 innings.

Kawakami is another important addition. The Braves have attempted to boost their presence in Japan in recent years, and manager Bobby Cox said scouts have closely followed the right-hander.

“We’ve had some guys watch him the last couple of years, and they like him,” Cox said.



What is Kenny Wallace's number?
A. 16 B. 23 C. 27 D. 56

What series did Harry Gant drive in after he retired from Winston Cup racing?
A. Busch Grand National series B. ASA
C. ARCA D. Craftsman Truck series

Tuesday's Answers:
In 2002 Ryan Newman drove the 12 car

True M&Ms sponsored Elliott Sadler who drove the #38 car.



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